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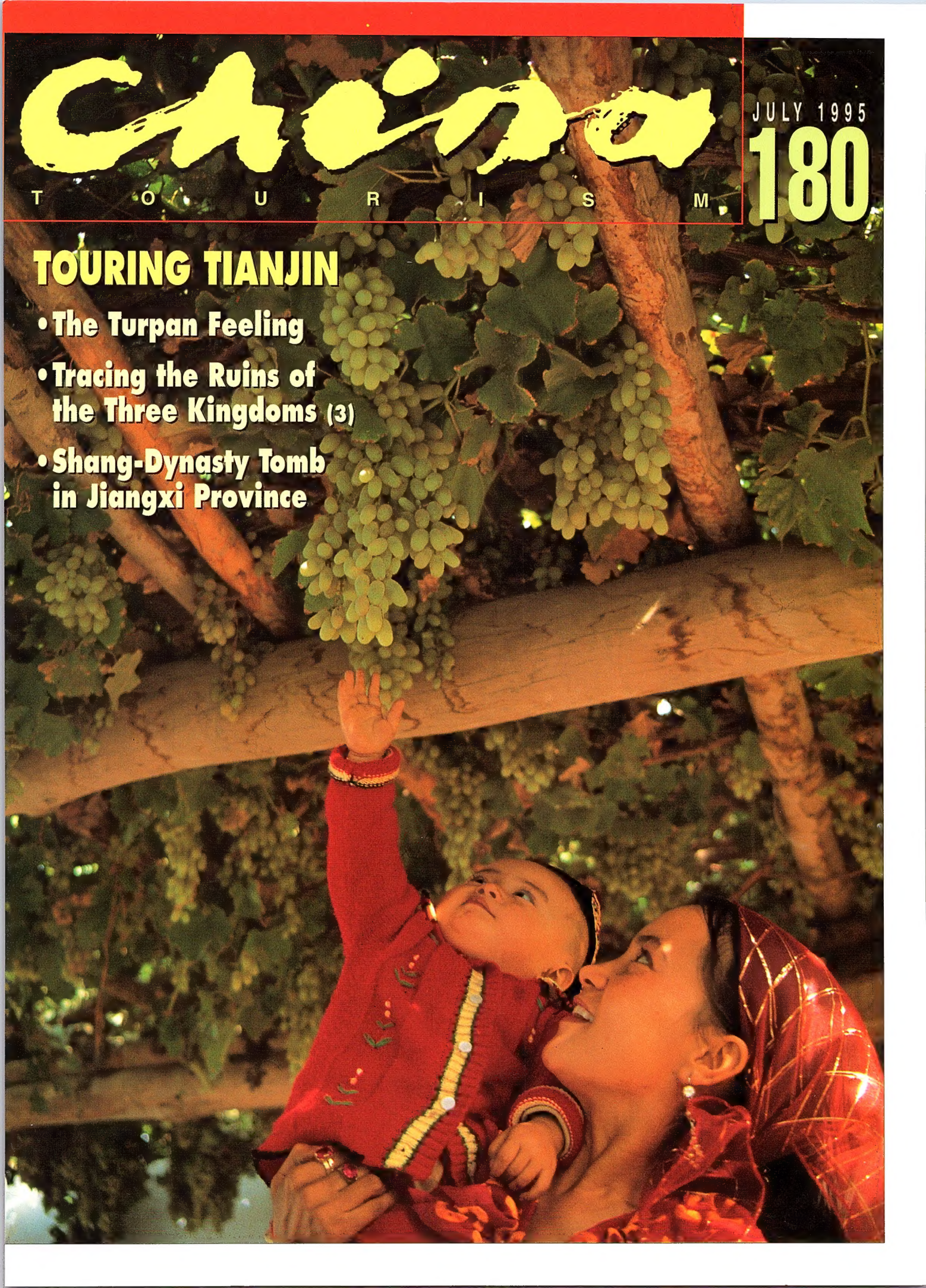
T O U R I S M

JULY 1995

180

TOURING TIANJIN

- The Turpan Feeling
- Tracing the Ruins of the Three Kingdoms (3)
- Shang-Dynasty Tomb in Jiangxi Province



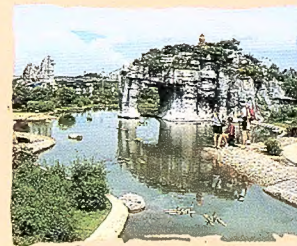
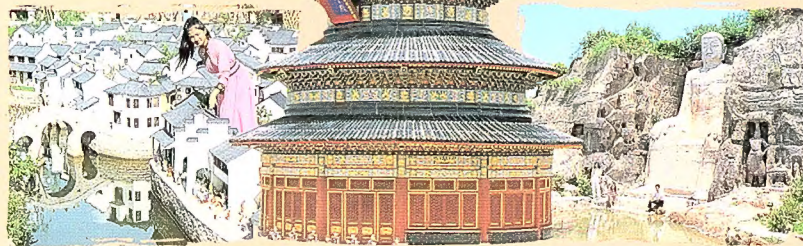
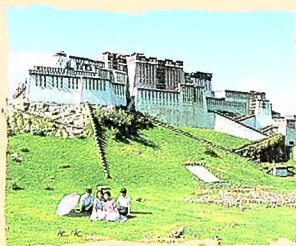
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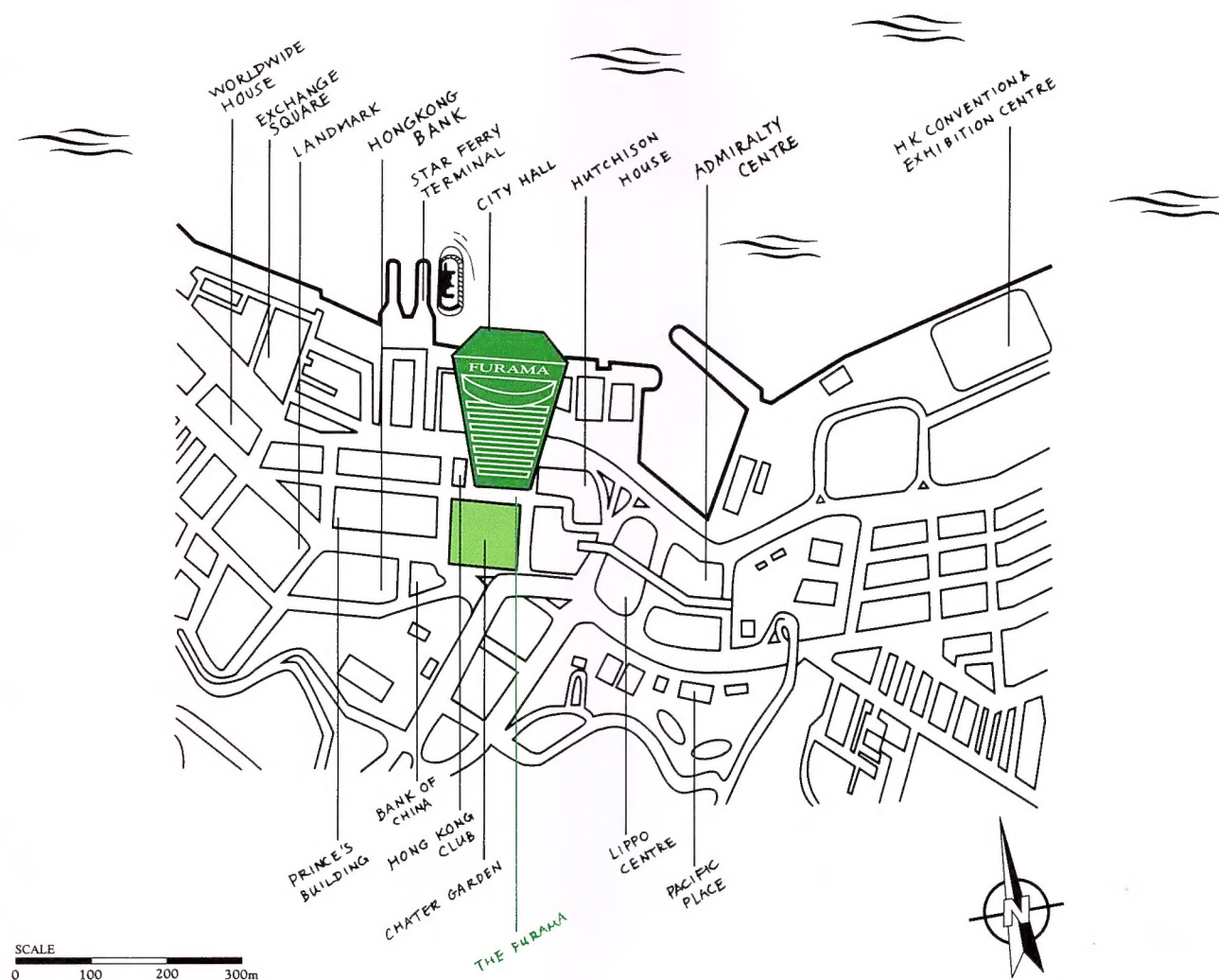
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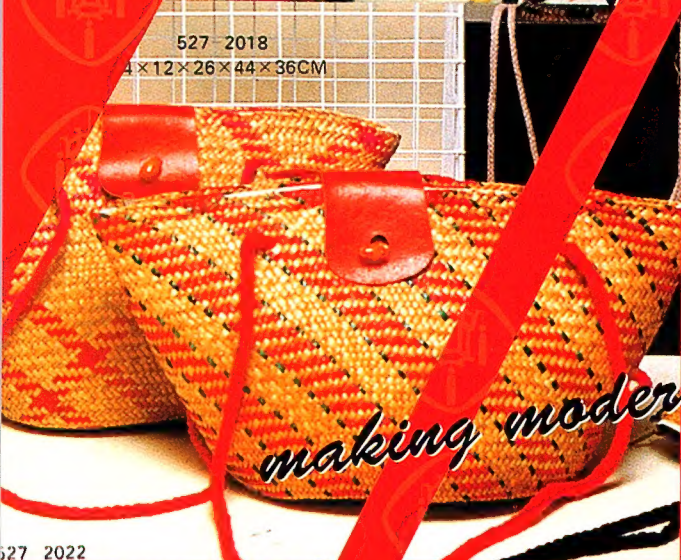
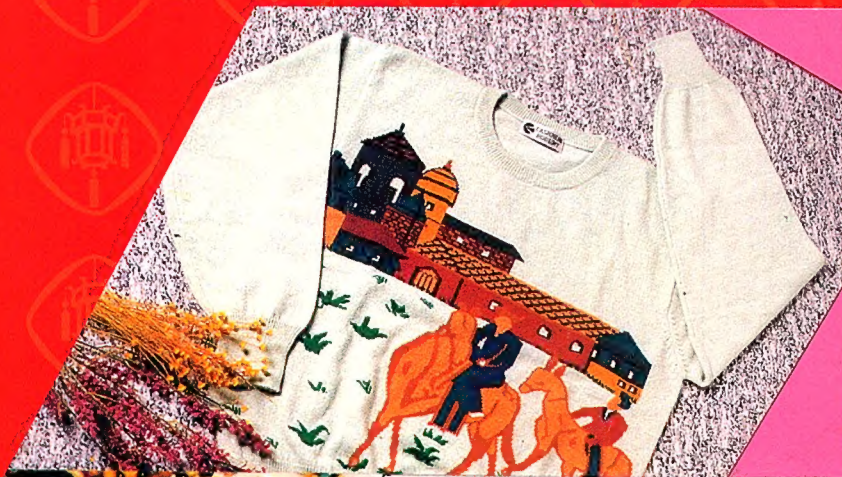


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Making History

A monumental edition in the run up to our 15th anniversary, in this issue we span from prehistoric dinosaur eggs in Henan Province, Shang-dynasty relics in Jiangxi Province from 1300-1200 B.C., right up to heart of contemporary China in Tianjin Municipality with its population of nine million souls. History, mythology and literature are to some degree rival texts telling the same story and where they diverge leave room to individual interpretation, as seen by academic debate and popular beliefs arising from the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. Where are the beheaded remains of Zhang Fei and the true location of Liu Bei, his sworn brother's tomb? Perhaps only time and archaeology will eventually disclose the answers. Talking of tombs and burials, we also have a touching and unusual modern day feature, "Live Tombs" on one elderly farmer who built his own burial tomb to ensure his side by side reunion with his wife. Moving back to travel, however, between Turpan and Tianjin we offer readers rival attractions: the fascination of desert air, wide spaces and Turpan's nearby ancient ruined capital cities of Jiaohe and Gaochang, and of course the bright lights syndrome of the metropolis, Tianjin. For urbanites, the city is culture. What is more capital and tolerable than a cosmopolitan metropolis that has something in common and unique at the same time, with for example, London, New York, Rome and Tokyo. In Tianjin, there are Central Park, commerce, nightlife, Ancient Culture Street, dumplings, the tallest dining place in China, the magnificent and refreshing Haihe River with its green banks and bridges such as Warrior's Bridge, Golden Pool Bridge and Liberation Bridge all waiting for the next sonnet and 20th century version of Wordsworth's *Upon Westminster Bridge*....

GUIDE TO TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



Touring Tianjin

8

Article by Huang Yanhong

Big is beautiful: most visitors from abroad are probably more familiar with Shanghai and Beijing, but Tianjin is also one of China's three municipalities directly under Central Government. Situated next door to Beijing, Tianjin inevitably has imperial associations and contains the Zhang Garden, one of the former residences of China's last emperor, Puyi. Moreover, as the gateway to Beijing, Tianjin is a top trade port city ranking 15th in the world, and is also historically famous for its delicious dumplings: Even-Dogs-Will-Ignore, one of Tianjin's more exotically named exports! Not surprisingly, Tianjin is also a consumer's paradise with Tianjin Quanye Bazaar shopping complex established since 1928, song-birds at Bird Market, Clothing Street for fashion lovers, and Antique Market on Shenyang Avenue the biggest of its kind in China.

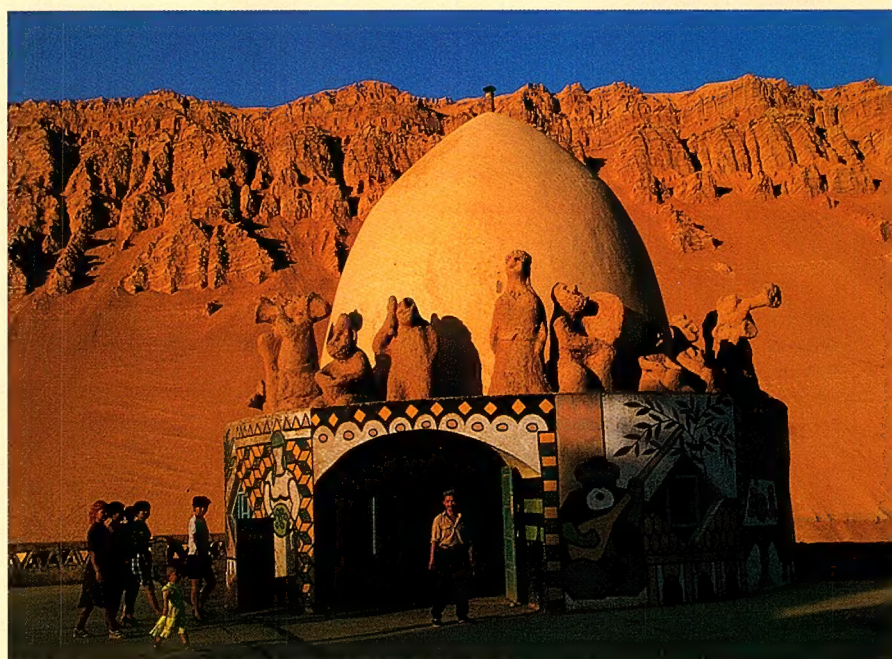
ALONG THE SILK ROAD

The Turpan Feeling

22

Article by Xia Jie

What is the fascination of the desert: mummies, archaeologists, the red sandstone Flaming Mountain or the extreme weather conditions? With just 16mm of precipitation a year and where day temperatures reach as high as 49°C, Hami melons and Turpan grapes are surely the milk and honey of the Uygur people. We return again to this northern outpost of China in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, this time in particular to take a glimpse into Turpan's speciality of producing excellent varieties of seedless dessert grapes, famous throughout China. And just when you thought seedless raisins are only a supermarket check-out item, courtesy of California's Sun Maid, China has been eating raisins since the Tang Dynasty from which Turpan still uses the traditional adobe houses to dry out the grapes.



TRACING THE PAST



Tracing the Ruins of the Three Kingdoms (3)

Article by Shi Bao Xiu

40

Man against Nature in Sichuan Province: the land of the primeval Three Gorges, death-defying switchbacks and Jianmen Pass, a formidable natural fortification also known as the "Number One Pass Under Heaven". Against this background, a melancholic episode of the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* unfolds where heroism and fame must submit to the mortal coil. We also travel to Chengdu, the capital of Liu Bei's Kingdom of Shu, and retrace other historic sites and towns right through to the border of Shaanxi Province.

RELICS FROM THE PAST



Shang-Dynasty Tomb in Xingan County, Jiangxi Province

Article by Peng Shifan

68

Investigating culture and settlement in the Yangtse River Basin, we reveal that Jiangxi Province has a history which is even older than its world famous Jingdezhen porcelain produced for over 2,000 years. We travel to Dayangzhou Township to an amazing 1300-1200 B.C. back in time to unearth the finds of a Shang-dynasty tomb. Among the 356 items of pottery, there are also some weird and wonderful pieces of bronze, jade and religious objects which display a unique and indigenous design.

GUIDE TO TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Touring Tianjin Article by Huang Yanhong 8

ALONG THE SILK ROAD

The Turpan Feeling Article by Xia Jie 22

LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA

Giant Shoe Mount on Vast Expanse of Water Photos & Article by Bao Xiu 32

QUINTESSENCE OF ANCIENT ART

An Ancient Taoist Robe in a Yao Village 36
Photos by Ye Jing / Text by Ye Jing & Liao Wushi

TRACING THE PAST

Tracing the Ruins of the Three Kingdoms (3) 40
Article by Shi Bao Xiu

RELICS FROM THE PAST

Shang-Dynasty Tomb in Xingan County, Jiangxi Province Article by Peng Shifan 68

CHINESE MODERN ART

Raw Wood Art — Handicrafts Made from Wooden Materials Text by Shu Yuancheng 72

PALEONTOLOGY

The Discovery of Dinosaur Egg Fossils in Henan Province Photos & Text by Yu Deshui 74

INTERLUDE IN THE COUNTRY

"Live Tombs" — The Fruit of a Decade's Effort 76
Photos by Chen Ruoying / Text by Liu Xiuruan

NEXT ISSUE 79

TRAVELLERS' CORNER

Return to the Holy Mountains of the Outlaws Photos & Article by Michael Woodhead 80

EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS

Major Hotels in Tianjin and Zhejiang 82

TRAVEL NOTES 84

NEWS 86

BUSINESS TIPS 87

Front Cover: Under the grape trellis in Turpan, Xinjiang (by Zeng Xianyang)



The Liberation Bridge in front of the Tianjin Railway Station was first built in 1903. In 1927, it was turned into an electric activated steel bridge. Today, it supports a huge sign board advertising French Martini (by Xie Guanghui).

Touring Tianjin



ARTICLE BY
HUANG YANHONG

The car left Beijing by departing the South Third Ring Road turning onto the Beijing-Tianjin Expressway. In just an hour's time we found ourselves driving on the Outer Ring Road of Tianjin. Tianjin is indeed megalosaurously big. Counting from the car I discovered that we were driving along 30 rings from the Outer Ring Road. Being in Tianjin for the first time, I wanted to retrace the footsteps of the emperor who came 600 years ago, a trip that started at the ferry point. For the newcomer, Tianjin is a lively new tourist city. Only then and there did I realize what little I knew of

Tianjin was nothing more than a few code names such as "a city directly under the Central Government", the "commercial centre" and "Goubuli (Even-Dogs-Will-Ignore) steamed dumplings". My time was limited but I wanted to see as much as possible. The solution was a "quick and short" visit. I made a few phone calls and my hotel room was soon filled up with local friends. My compact hotel room seemed to be instantly hit by an "information explosion" as our conversation about Tianjin touched on all topics, past and present, Chinese and foreign. Amidst the fast volley of Tianjin dialect was a long list of places to see — the Haihe Park, Heavenly Pagoda, Mount Panshan, Huangya Pass, Yangliuqing which is home of woodblock prints, the Mini-World, Culture Street, Green Jade Screen Park, Eight Immortals Rock, Stone Park.... I was also handed stories that Tianjin people take pride in, including those about immortals or fairies such as the Queen Mother, Jiang Taigong (a historical figure said to be of the Zhou Dynasty of about 1100-221 B.C.), and the Eight Immortals who somehow all had some kind of connection with Tianjin. Meng Jiangnü (a legendary figure of the Qin Dynasty from 221-207 B.C.) whose cry caused the collapse of the Great Wall was a native of Tianjin. Great King Yu (a legendary figure of the pre-historical period) tried to tame the Haihe River here. Emperor Taizong (r. 627-649) of the Tang Dynasty had a temple built here, the Eight Immortals started their trip across the sea at Tianjin; Cao Cao (155-220) built a canal here.... All these stories alone make a trip to Tianjin entirely worthwhile.



Fashion whole-salers from outside Tianjin (by Xie Guanghui)

Want to buy shoes? Go to the Shoe Market where you will find footwear in all designs and colours (by Mo Yi).



At the traffic police pavilion on the busy Heping Road, policemen as well directing the traffic answer questions on directions (by Xie Guanghui).



Tianjin Quanye Bazaar which opened in 1928 is now known for its famous stores, great variety of commodities, restaurants, cinemas and theatres that can be found inside (by Xie Guanghui).



Beauty parlours are a vogue. They can be found inside department stores (by Mo Yi).



Making dough dolls is an old practice. Yet on the streets in Tianjin today, you still run into pedlars selling dough dolls (by Shi Zhiqiang).

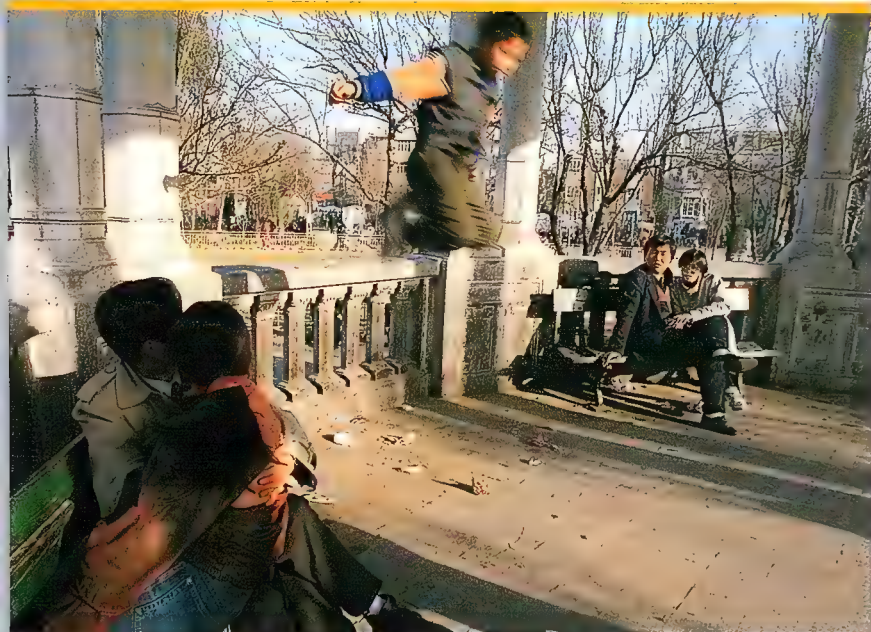
For a bird's-eye view of Tianjin, my friend told me that I must ascend the Heavenly Pagoda, which is 415.2 metres tall and comparable to a building of more than 100 storeys. The very name of the structure first led me to think of it as a Buddhist building. Later, it turned out to be the former tallest building in Asia — the Tianjin TV Tower. I decided to walk from where I was staying to the TV tower so that I could see the town on the way. It was still quite a walk to the tower and I was already sweating. I decided to hop into a taxi to the tower. Gazing from its base, I was awestruck by its height. Scenically located, the tower stood in the middle of a circling lake. Though the tower lost its position as the highest structure in Asia two years after its construction to the TV tower in Shanghai, it nevertheless presents a fantastic sight. I paid 20 yuan for admission to the tower, got into the elevator and in 55 seconds arrived at the viewing hall 260 metres above the ground. Looking at the sight below, I found neatly laid streets, the gymnasium — which was the site for the 43rd World Table Tennis Championship appearing like a flying dish by the Water Park, and a living quarter called the Ningjia Housing Area with Scandinavian style villas. I was lucky to be there during the sunset and found the lake in the Water Park tinged with a reddish golden glow. Emperors did not have the fortune of standing at such a height to look down at their subjects. This thought elevated my spirits all the more. I went into the revolving restaurant in the tower, the highest dining place in China. The circling dining hall can serve 200 people. When I walked in, the restaurant was still quite empty and the diners were mostly courting couples sitting by the window enjoying the changing scenery and chatting in the romantic atmosphere.

A Real Taste of the Goubuli Dumpling

To sample Tianjin's local way of life, history and culture the best place to go is the Ancient Culture Street to taste local delicacies. Hotel Street is for accommodation, and Clothing Street for the fashion-conscious. Leaving Ancient Culture Street, I soon came to Hotel Street. Unable to find hotels lining up the street, I asked and was told there was only one hotel which was divided into two parts: the north



An artist making a living by portraiture for tourists at the Central Park in Tianjin (by Xie Guanghui)



The Central Park in Tianjin is a favourite spot for young lovers as well as for children (by Xie Guanghui).



An image-conscious young woman chatting on a mobile phone (by Lei Ping)



Today, girls almost without exception want to have their wedding photo taken in a wedding gown, hence the boom at wedding studios (by Shi Zhiqiang).

Brothers Fan Guicai and Fan Guilin were the first to make the huge fried dough twist. They opened two stores called "Gui Faxiang" and "Gui Facheng" on Dagunan Road and Shiba Street. In 1956, the two stores merged into the Gui Faxiang Fried Dough Twist Store with a joint public and private ownership. The store has carried forward and developed the fine traditions and techniques of the Fan brothers, making the food known far and wide.



Kentucky Fried Chicken has found Tianjin a new home (by Liu Yang).

and south buildings. The street's name really came from the imitation ancient architectural style of buildings.

Coming to the topic of food, however, one of my hobbies, I was naturally very excited to be at Food Street. After eating four or five kinds of local delicacies, I still wanted to have more, but my stomach was already full. Tianjin food has long enjoyed a good reputation. It is said that Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736-1795) passed Tianjin several times on his inspection tours to the south. He was so impressed with the food in Tianjin that he took off his emperor's jacket and crown and gave them to the cook. Food Street is not only where you can eat the goodies, there are local food galleries and various restaurants, snack bars and food stands in almost every street. While walking in Tianjin, your nostrils will be assailed frequently with the aroma of food. For some of the best places, you will have to book beforehand.

On a Sunday, my friends and I got together to find out information on the "culture of eating". The site chosen was the Goubuli Dumpling Restaurant. I got to the restaurant half an hour earlier than the appointed time. The newly decorated restaurant was packed with pedestrians outside, and was equally packed inside. Luckily, my local friends had reserved a room on the second floor. The dinner began with a few dishes of cold seafood, and soon the real thing — steamed dumplings — were served. First there were ones with three-fresh delights as the filling. One bite into a warm dumpling revealed a juicy filling which was tasty and non-greasy. Then there were dumplings with pork filling, made with choice meat and other quality ingredients. The creases on the wrapping have to be very even and no less than 15 on each dumpling. I counted twice. They had the exact number of creases required. In half an hour, almost everybody was full and only then did we begin the topic of the "culture of eating". A local friend filled me in with the whole story of the Goubuli dumplings. The dumpling restaurant, originally called "De Ju Hao", was founded by a man called Gao Guiyou more than 100 years ago. A down and out, he was frowned upon by people. Even dogs would ignore him, hence the nickname: "Even-Dogs-Will-Ignore". Later on, his nickname was so well-known that it became the name



At the Food Street, you can try a whole range of local flavours including the super giant deep fried dough twist, ear hole cake, shishkebab and of course US snack food such as hamburgers from McDonalds (by Gao Ping).



During the reign of Emperor Guangxu (1893-1908) of the Qing Dynasty, Liu Wanchun, nicknamed "Fried Cake Liu" rented a store in the narrow Ear Hole Lane on Beimenwai Street and began his business of making deep fried cakes. Crispy outside and sweet inside, the cakes are a favourite. Though his store had a sign announcing "Zeng Sheng Cheng", people still referred to the cake as Ear Hole Cake. Later he changed the store name into Ear Hole Cake Store (by Wang Shengbao).



The soft pancakes containing vegetables and meat is a favourite of Tianjin residents (by Wang Baosheng).



*Listening to birds singing
against the sunset
(by Liu Yang)*

*The Bird Market in Tianjin
reopened about 10 years
ago. So long as the
weather is fine, bird
keepers will come here
with their cages early in
the morning (by Mo Yi).*

of the restaurant. As the fame of the dumplings along with his nickname spread further and further, his real name has almost been forgotten. Not only did the Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908) have a particular fancy for the dumplings, people today including foreigners also love the food. Today, the dumplings are exported to a number of countries. In the street, I saw several chain stores of the same restaurant as well as some small eating places with the signboard of "Lesser Goubuli Dumplings". Some restaurants had bold characters announcing "dumplings prepared by specially invited cooks from the Goubuli Dumpling Restaurant", in order to attract customers. Indeed nobody can afford to ignore the tasty dumplings.

Cycling Along the Haihe River

The Haihe River is the soul of Tianjin and its scenery offers a comprehensive scenic site in the city. The river flows through the city district and empties into the sea 30 kilometres away. For 20 kilometres along the riverbank, green belts have been added covering a total area of more than 20 hectares. On the right bank from Bei'an Bridge to Liuzhuang Bridge, gardens within gardens such as the Youth Garden, Grass and Flower Garden, Spring Flower Garden, Summer Flower Garden, Rose Garden and the Autumn Scenery Garden have been built. The gardens, grown with either cypress or pine trees or lines of willows, are also decorated with sculptures and fountains. The bridges spanning the river such as the Warriors' Bridge, Lion Bridge, Golden Pool Bridge, Liberation Bridge and the Great Brightness Bridge add much beauty and character to the riverside scenery. The Flowing Glow on the river has been listed one of the 10 great scenic sites in Tianjin. I started from the Guanghua Bridge on the Central Ring Road and cycled upstream all the way to Monument of Directing Luanhe River Water to Tianjin at Sanchakou. Though it was late winter and early spring time, with no green grass and trees yet, I still felt a sense of vitality on the banks of the Haihe River. To my surprise, the river belongs to the Tianjin people in both name and fact for all the parks on the river are free of charge. There is no admission charge to the well-kept toilets, which is a different case in other large cities.

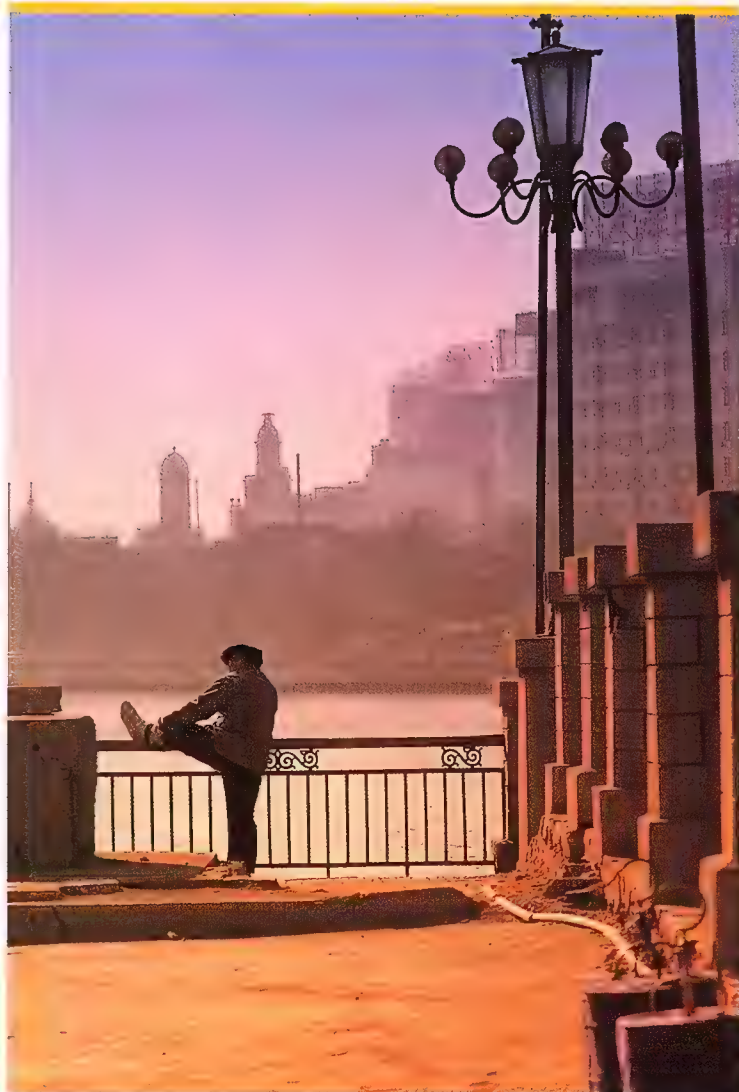
On the green lawns, I saw many old people holding bird cages, citizens playing cards together and young couples sitting intimately on benches. When I returned in the evening, I passed through the Station Square flooded with lights. On the west of the railway station stands a colour electronic screen 14 metres high and 40 metres wide. The screen is 551.16 square metres and listed in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

On the square there were photographers taking photos for visitors. During the day I saw their sample boards featuring pictures with blue sky and white clouds; obviously flexible businessmen, they now showed evening scenes. I also ran into a young man with glasses, offering his times 200 astronomical telescope for looking at the sky for half a yuan.

The Haihe River is particularly attractive after April. At the Dalian Wharf, one can go on a pleasure boat to have a good look at the scenery along the banks as well as the sea lighthouse.

The Day When the Dragon Raises Its Head

On my second day in Tianjin, a few friends came to visit me. Suddenly, one of them seemed to have remembered something and asked to leave for a few minutes. However, he did not come back until two hours later. When he reappeared, he had a crew cut. Only



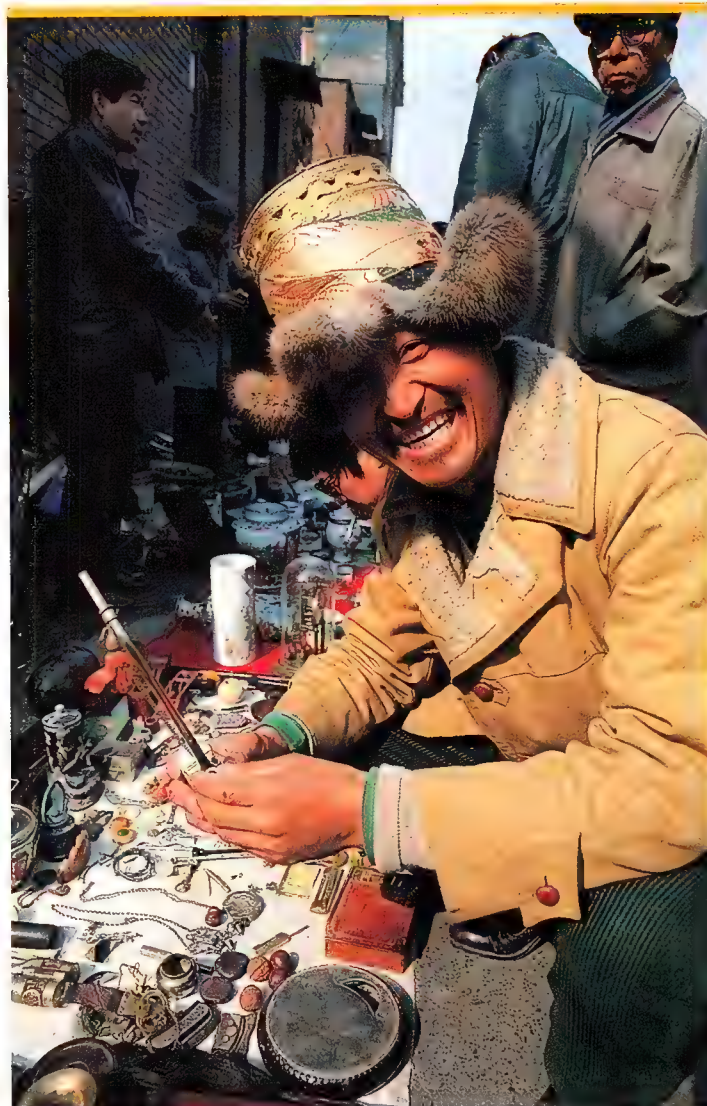
The Haihe River flows through Tianjin and refreshes the air along the way. In the morning, people come to the riverside to exercise (by Liu Jiaxiang).



Barbers on the street seize a moment to exercise (by Liu Yang).



The Tianjin Children Juvenile and Youth Activity Centre, among its courses, offers electronic organ lessons. On Sundays, parents take their children to learn to play electronic organs here (by Xie Guanghui).



The Antique Market on Shenyang Avenue is a recent development. In 1983, the neighbourhood committee of the avenue held a used articles exchange fair. Later, private antiques joined the rank of used articles and turned the fair into an antique market. The market has a rich supply of antiques, particularly those from the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties and the Republic (1911-1949) period (by Li Qi).



Behind the scenes: makeup for Peking opera performers

under serious questioning did he reveal the truth. The day which was the second day of the second month on the lunar calendar was believed to be the time when the dragon would raise its head. According to folk custom, those who have their haircut on the day will have good luck. For women, they should not do any needlework on the day in fear of pricking the eye of the dragon. My friends and I were deeply amused by the story and we soon drifted on to the topic of folk customs. Tianjin people are known for their etiquette and taboos. They have a host of unwritten rules and regulations on clothes, behaviour, weddings and funeral rites, childbirth and the rearing of children, food and drink, place names, ways to address people, and even arts and crafts. Such legacies of the local culture are important for studying folk customs. Some of the festival practices, for example, are very interesting. They include "having dumplings on the New Year's Day, noodles on the second day and visiting relatives on the third day"; placing apples on the bed on New Year's Eve by way of welcoming the New Year; making dumplings on the fifth day of the New Year — a custom which is called making dolls on the sixteenth day of the New Year, whereby women visiting relatives or friends will be kept free from disease; having a "ghost party" on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month: the food for the ninth day of the ninth month being mostly cakes, and wonton soup to mark the beginning of winter.... There are many other special customs in Tianjin as Tianjin was once a town of immigrants who brought with them customs and habits from different places. These old customs merged into new practices with the urbanization, and have acquired a style particular to Tianjin. I felt strongly from my contacts with friends, old and new that Tianjin residents were open, ready to help, straightforward and quick to act. During my stay in the city, either in scenic areas or in the streets, the Tianjin people proved easy to communicate with and humorous. The business people in particular aid their deals with the help of humour. Even if you are not at all interested in striking a deal, they will not let you go without making jokes Tianjin-style. No wonder people in Tianjin are known to have a quick and sharp tongue.

Translated by Huang Youyi



Mascot stores are a special attraction to young couples (by Gao Ping).



The Wagon Night Club is a good spot for evening life in Tianjin, with up to 1,000 people dancing together (by Li Qi).



Tianjin is home to quyi — a series of folk performing arts, including singing to the accompaniment of the Peking tune drum, the plum flower drum, comical dialogues, rhythmic talk accompanied by bamboo clappers and singing in Tianjin tunes which all attract large audiences. The Famed Teahouse offers quyi performances (by Gao Ping).

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The strong contrast of the oases and desert in the Turpan Basin (by Wu Chunzhan)

The Turpan Feeling

ARTICLE BY XIA JIE



Donkeys are a common means of transport in Turpan (by Song Shijing).



Turpan is known as the "Home of Grapes" (by Wu Chunzhan).



I had already travelled along the route four times with different travelling companions, but not in the peak season between summer and autumn.

I went through Urumqi, Dabancheng, Baiyanggou, deserts, pastures and farmland. Grotesquely-shaped rocks lay on the mountains on both sides of the road, and scenes of green grass and trees flashed by every now and then. Sometimes we saw herds of sheep, and sometimes horses and camels came into sight.

All of a sudden a gravel bank appeared before us; it stretched to the horizon where the road wound forward. The sky overhead was covered by grey clouds of dust and sands. The smell of the dusty air irritated our noses. Dry wind, muffled by sunshine, came like a newly-made quilt upon us: this was the Turpan feeling.

I was reminded of how light ink saturates slowly into the Xuancheng paper. Our Turpan feeling deepened as the air was thickened by the dry, bitter smell sent forth by the sands and gravels almost melted by the scalding sun. Visitors forgot that they were preoccupied, delighted by the immediate scene.

Everyone knew the reason they did not sweat was because the moisture had been evaporated by the heat before they managed to perspire, but they still shouted in surprise: What! the atmospheric temperature has reached 38 degrees centigrade! Oh, no, it's 40 degrees and we're not sweating! Some visitors even gazed at the thermometer, wishing the red line to rise still higher so that it could become their topic to boast to others later.

Turpan Grapes and Hami Melons

Xinjiang has many features and charms of its own. Travelling in deserts concentrates the mind, where you find the smallest of things interesting on the dull, lonely trip; just like leisurely tea drinkers in the teahouse can tell what kind of tea, Longjing or Biluochun in the pot by its fragrance.

The scalded gravels and sands sent forth different smells: bitter, astringent and muddy; mingled. But before long, a scent of dry sand grass, red willow, camel thorn and moist air came to our nose. Without opening our eyes, we realized that Turpan was not far off now.

First coming into sight were the adobe houses lying row upon row. Not far from the adobe houses there was an unusually tall building constructed with hollowed-out adobes. It looked like a rectangle flower-bed. Lying on top of a sand hill, or at a height, it sent forth an enticingly sweet smell.

Usually, tourist buses are not allowed to stop at such hollowed-out adobe buildings. These buildings are for drying grapes and not open to visitors. Although Xinjiang's weather changes sharply in the four seasons and there are less germs than southern China, the local people don't like visitors to come, one group today and another group tomorrow, gazing around with craned necks at their sacred drying places.

People say that raisins appeared 1,000 years ago in the Tang Dynasty, using the same drying method as ventilating houses today with hollowed-out adobes, and where inside clusters of grapes are hung on the specially-made wooden sheds to let the grapes dry in the air devoid of sunshine. Xinjiang people often say, "Turpan produces grapes and Hami melons." Although Hami melons are not as good as those from Shanshan, Turpan's grapes are really good, with a sweet taste beyond comparison.

Gorgeous Seedless Grapes

During my first visit to Turpan I went in a jeep to Grape Valley, where I found the Mare Breast-Shaped Grape, Pearl-Like Grape, Red Grape.... People told me there were

1

2

over 10 different varieties. The one for making raisins was the seedless Pearl-Like Grape. Light green in colour, they looked like jasper pearls that could be strung together, giving an impression of "surprising gorgeousness". During my second visit there, I saw many grape trellises being erected along both sides of the main roads. Not long after that, I went there again and found that the tall trellises were covered by grape vines, which looked like a canopy shading the vehicles passing by. Donkey-drawn carts also clattered past from time to time. The strings of grapes were like the specially-made decorations on Christmas Eve.

When I returned to Urumqi after that visit, I told a friend about the grape trellises. He gave me a smile. The next day, as I pulled my travelling box along and hastened to the airport to leave for home, that mister friend came to bid farewell to me with a willow basket loaded with Pearl-Like grapes. Words failed me. When I passed through the customs with the basket in hand at Luohu, many people darted envious glances at me, even the serious customs officers could not hold back their curiosity and kept asking me where I had bought those grapes.

Turpan grapes are renowned for their big size and sweet taste. In addition, Turpan produces many kinds of wine such as Red Wine, Mulberry Wine, etc. Perhaps, because the local people have sweetened their taste by the juice of grapes and Hami melon, they habitually like to drink honey-sweet wine, and most of the wine they brew are very sweet. But the white wine produced in Shanshan is delicately fragrant and popular among tourists.

All visitors to Turpan have more or less heard beforehand about the places they hope to visit, or the things they wish to see. The Flaming Mountain, grape wine, the Thousand-Buddha Grottoes, the Ruins of the Gaochang City, the ancient Jiaohe City, the beautiful Emin Minaret, the underground museum — Astana Graves, the Karez Wells (an underground irrigation system), donkey-drawn carts, six-string fiddles ... all are like pieces on a chessboard, awaiting visitors.

This was the impression I got from my visits. Other visitors had their impressions and experiences. However, Turpan is such a wonderful place.

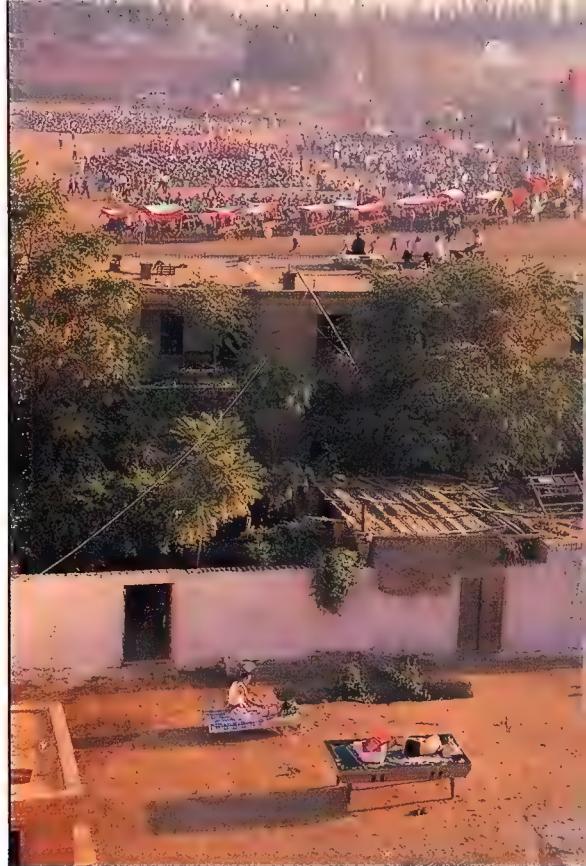
A mosque in Turpan (by Song Shijing)

Every Uyghur household in Turpan has a grape-drying room (by Chan Yat Nin).

The old city area and the suburbs of Turpan have retained their simplicity (by Sun Jiabin).

Turpan has become a famous tourist city in Xinjiang. The sculptures in the new city centre welcome visitors from home and abroad (by Chan Yat Nin).

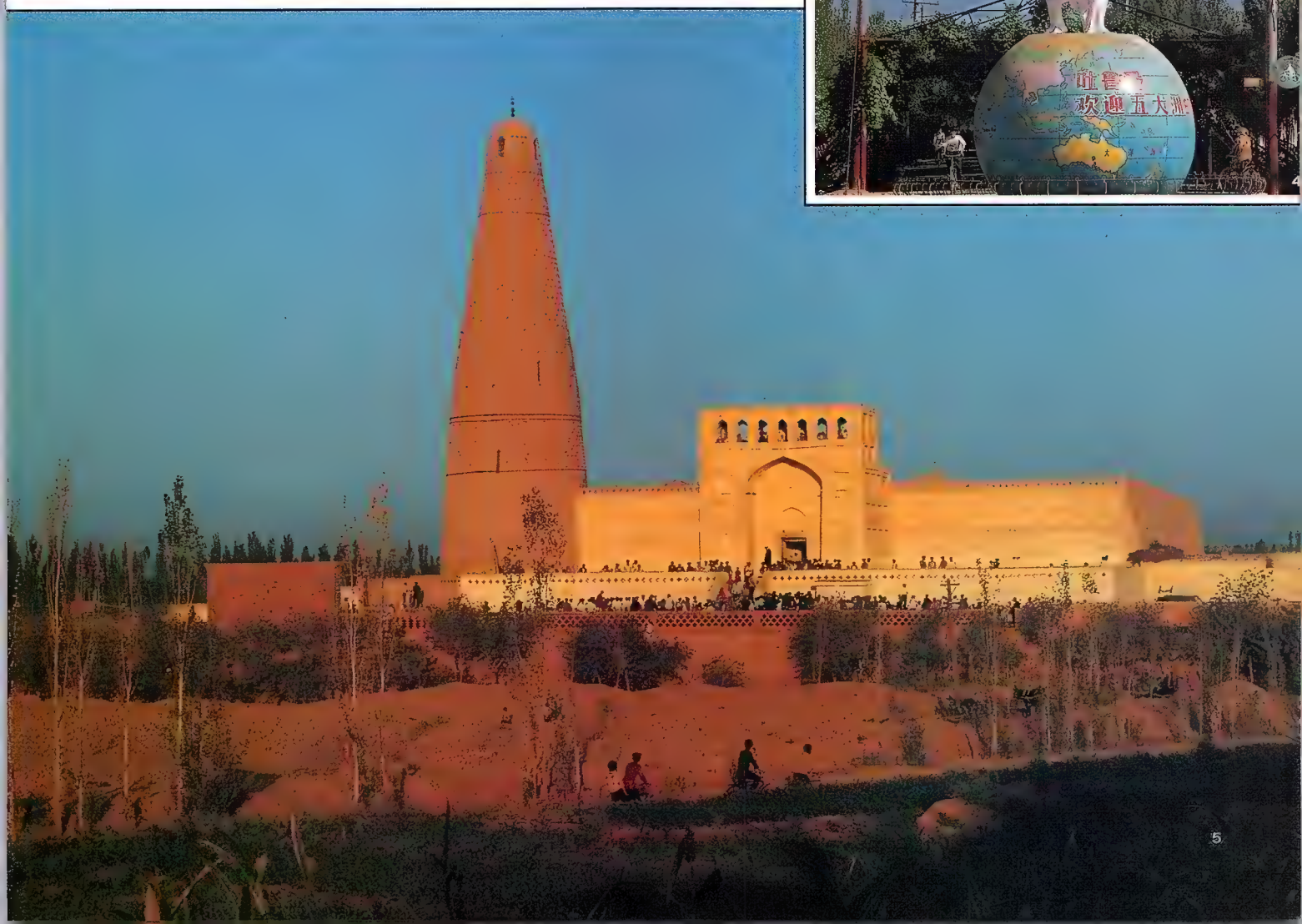
Emin Minaret located two kilometres east of the city was built in 1778 (by Song Shijing).



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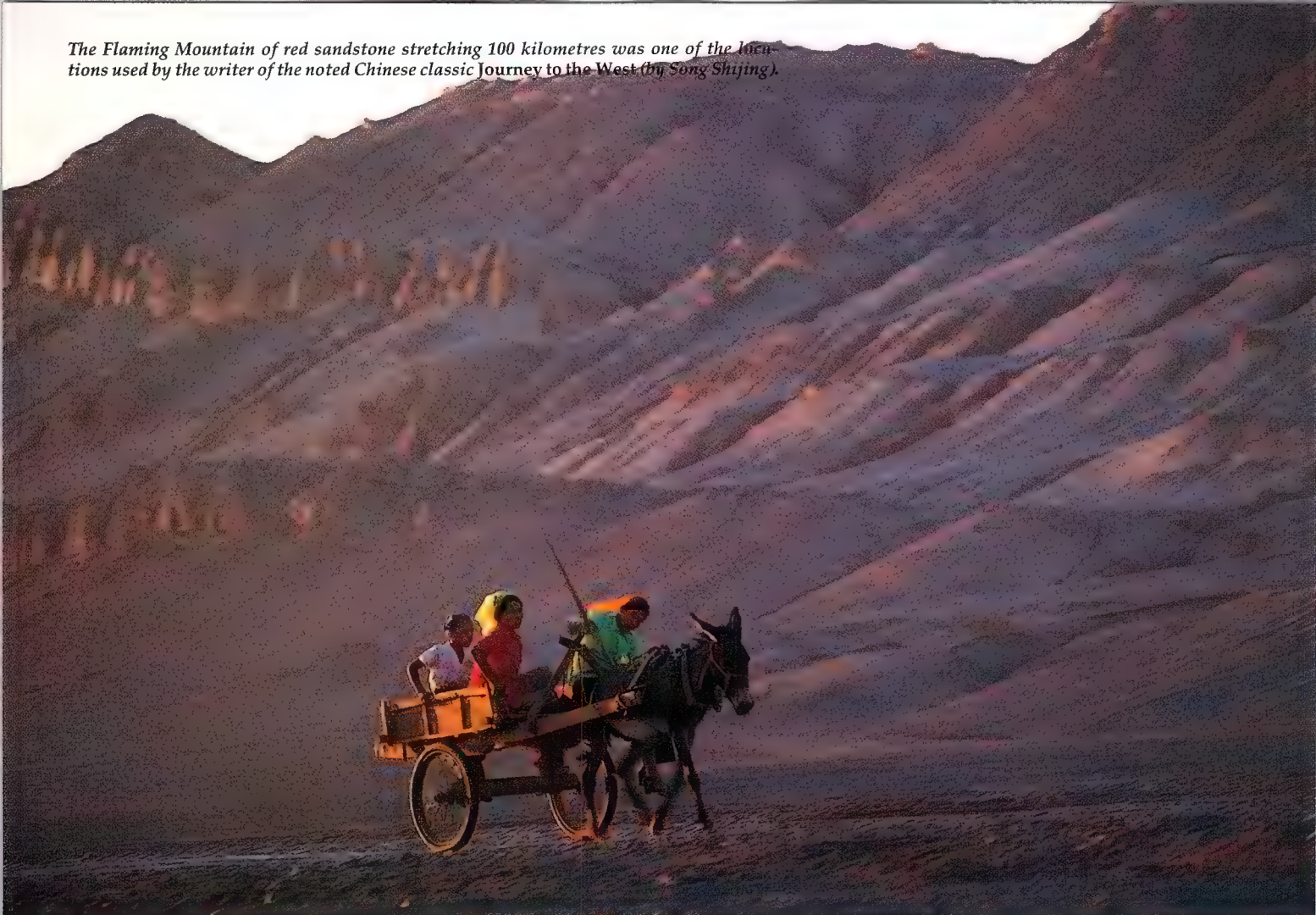


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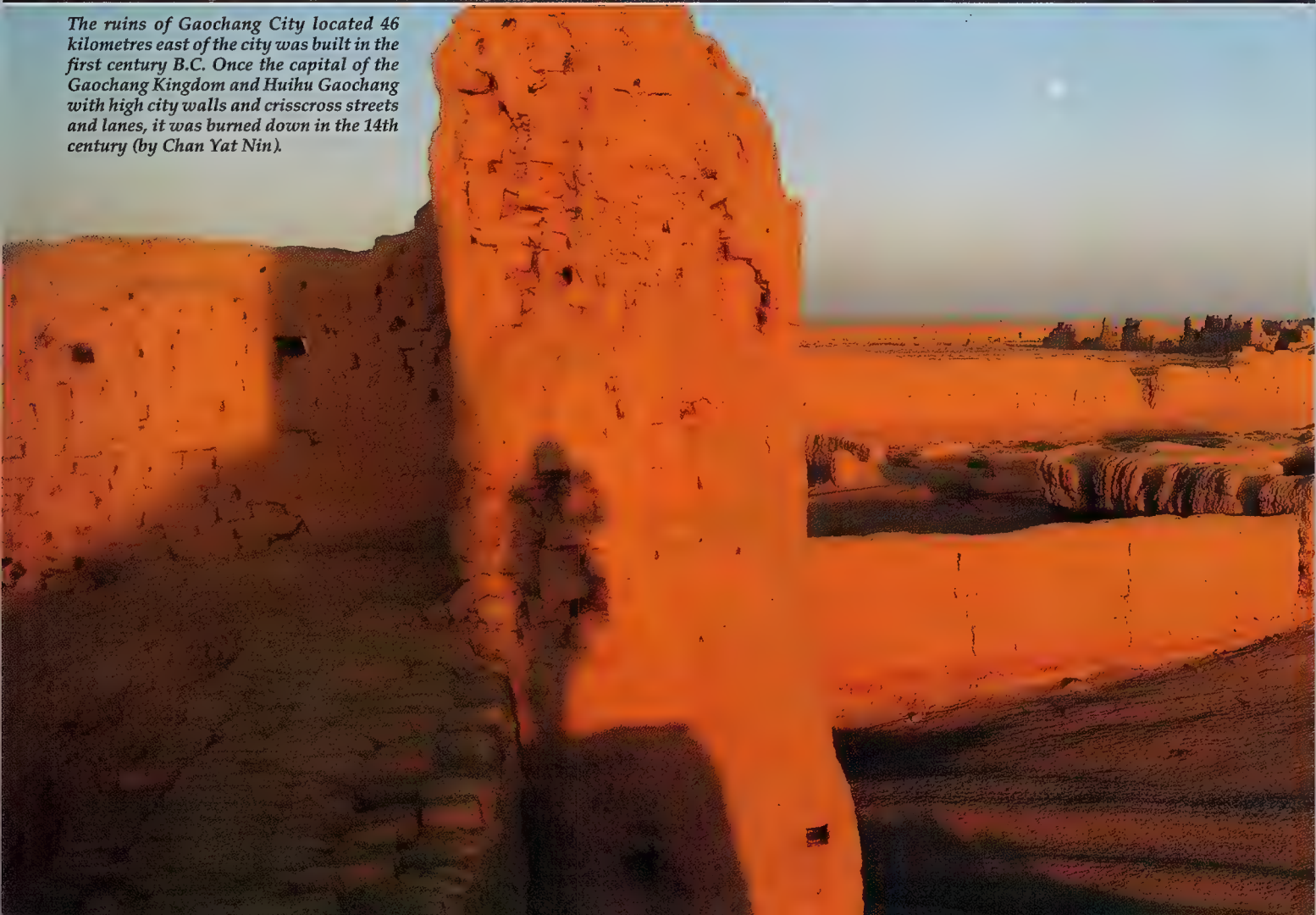


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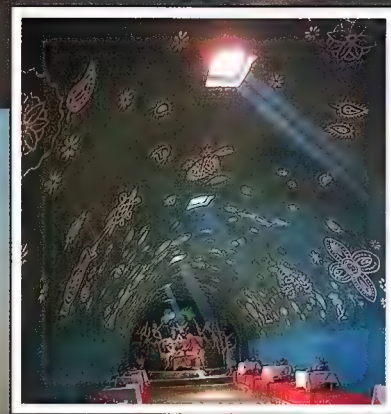
The Flaming Mountain of red sandstone stretching 100 kilometres was one of the locations used by the writer of the noted Chinese classic Journey to the West (by Song Shijing).



The ruins of Gaochang City located 46 kilometres east of the city was built in the first century B.C. Once the capital of the Gaochang Kingdom and Huihu Gaochang with high city walls and crisscross streets and lanes, it was burned down in the 14th century (by Chan Yat Nin).



The Palace of Journey to the West built at the foot of the Flaming Mountain is a new tourist attraction in Turpan (by Chan Yat Nin).



A scene showing a mythological stele in the palace (by Ji Juncheng).





Shining Spears and Armoured Horses in Sandstorm

I waited quietly at the foot of the Flaming Mountain, but no donkey carts came up. I asked the girl guide to wear her red scarf and walk towards my camera to enhance the atmosphere.

Standing against the wind on the tall earth-rammed wall of the ancient Gaochang City or at the end of the ancient Jiaohe streets full of bumps and hollows, I seemed to see the shining spears and armoured horses of ancient times emerging and floating in the sand blown by the wind.

When I entered the chamber of the ancient Astala tomb, I visited the gorgeous Tang-dynasty murals using an electric torch. Although I knew well that the image of those dry corpses did not look nice, I still took the opportunity to clip my camera a few times....

One day at noon, the sunlight was pale and yellow dusts drifted in the air. I felt suffocatingly hot standing outside as if I were in a glasshouse. But farmers were still working hard on the threshing ground. The scent of new wheat and dry grass made people forget the flying dusts. Inside houses was another world. Some people hid themselves taking their noontime snooze inside their rooms. It was pleasantly cool inside, especially if you sprinkle some clean water on the cement floor.

But I did not have time to snooze as I was still thinking about the veranda covered by grape vines and the eight-petalled plum in the flower bed at its end. I wanted to take some photos of them. The shadow of the long veranda waved indistinctly like paintings. I wore a pair of cloth shoes with a layer of rubber on the soles, which were like cat's paws. I walked along noiselessly. All of a sudden, a Uygur woman walked up to me as if she sprang up from the corner densely covered by green vines. She asked me why I did not take a nap at noontime and then started laughing. Pointing to the yellowish sky, she told me it would rain that night.

Sure enough, there was no moonlight that evening. The song-and-dance party was held in the front courtyard at the spacious passage under the grape trellis. Before the party came to an end, the rain started.

Icy Water from the Karez Wells in the Desert

Next morning the sunshine was bright and clear as if it had been washed by the rain. Together with other tourists, I hired a one-horse-drawn cart with a cloth awning and went to drink the icily cold water from the Karez Wells in the desert.

Sitting in the cart, I told my fellow visitors a story on the way: A long, long time ago there was a beautiful girl who, seeing her hometown lying lonely among sand dunes in the barren desert, decided to go out to look for the Fairy of Wisdom to help her clan members. She went through numerous hardships in the desert and finally found the Fairy of Wisdom, who gave her a pack of seeds and asked her to plant the seeds in the desert along the way back to her hometown, on the condition that she must not turn back to look. Following the instruction, the girl scattered the seeds as she walked along. Suddenly a thought disturbed her mind: will the seeds I scatter be blown away by wind? She turned to look back and found that behind her was a completely different world: birds singing, flowers giving forth fragrance, spring water gurgling, grapes, fruits and melons growing, and lush green trees everywhere. She turned around to look at the seeds left in her hand. Suddenly, a gale of wind rose and blew all the seeds out off her hands.

Since then in the endless desert, only Turpan had spring water coming out forming into streams. So, some of the girl's clan members stayed on this piece of land, while the others went to look for the seeds blown away by the wind on the other side of the desert....

I told my fellow travellers that an old Uygur man told me the story by the side of the Karez Wells on a previous visit to Turpan. Once you have drunk the clear spring water from the ancient well, the Turpan feeling fills you deep down.

Oh, my Turpan feeling!

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

1. Aydingkol Lake lying 155 metres below sea level is the floor of the Turpan Basin. It is the second lowest inland depression in the world next only to the Dead Sea in Jordan (by Liang Feng).

2. The Sand Therapy Sanatorium is located 16 kilometres northwest of Turpan City. The hot sand there is ideal for heat therapy (by Song Shijing).

3. A foreign motorcycle tourist team arrives at the Turpan Hotel (by Wu Chunzhan).

4. Some 48 kilometres northwest of Turpan City, the Bozaikrik Thousand Buddha Caves are situated at Mutougou in the valley of the Flaming Mountain. More than 40 of the 77 Buddhist caves contain remains of murals. Of these caves, the earliest dates back to the 6th century and the latest to the 13th century (by Liang Feng).

5. From the ruins of the ancient Jiaohe City visitors can still detect the layout of the ancient streets and houses (by Chan Yat Nin).

6. The ancient Jiaohe City lies at the Yamaiz Valley 13 kilometres west of Turpan City. It was the capital of Kushi Qian State, one of the 36 different independent states in Central Asia, some 2,000 years ago and was destroyed by war at the end of the 13th century. The grandeur of the ancient capital can still be seen from the ruins (by Song Shijing).



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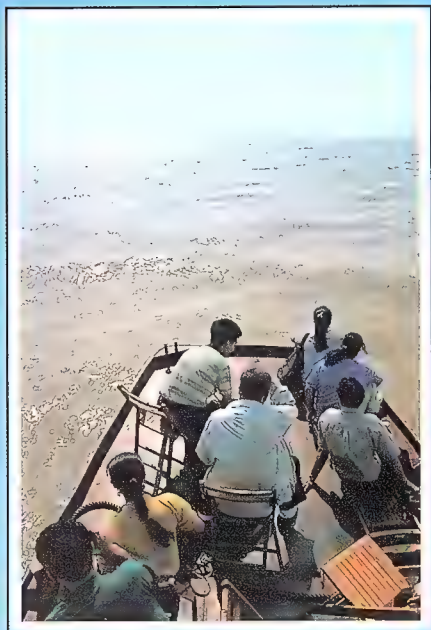


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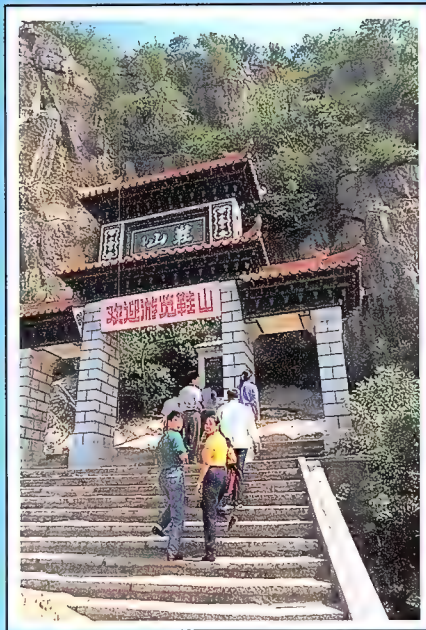
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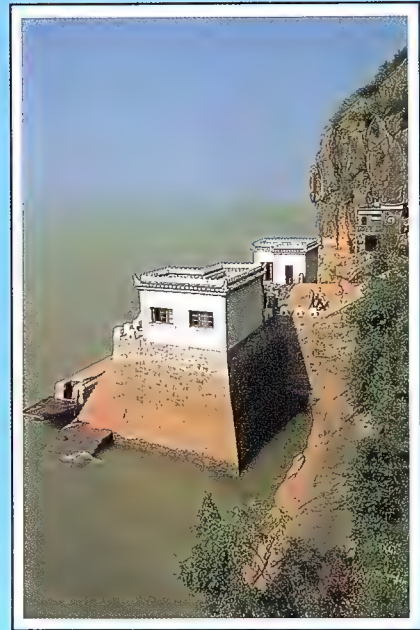
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Looking afar, it resembles an embroidered shoe for feudal ladies with bound feet.



Entrance to the mount



The wharf of the mount looks like an ancient stronghold.



Giant Shoe Mount on Vast Expanse of Water

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY BAO XIU





The crag atop the mount has eroded from rain.



If not "pinned" by the pagoda, will the Shoe Mount float away?



Half way to the top, there is a hall for Buddhist ceremonies.

I have long heard about the unique phenomenon on Poyang Lake in Jiangxi Province and had always wanted to see it for myself. It was a mount resembling a giant "shoe" seemingly floating on the vast expanse of water.

Rent a Boat

Last October, I fled from the freezing fog in Mount Lushan to Jiujiang City, only to be muffled by a stuffy heat there. So I didn't stop over but hurried to take a bus to a place named Hukou, where I toured the Mount of Stone Bell before I went down to a wharf to seek a boat to the giant Shoe Mount.

Unfortunately few tourists came that day, and the boat owner was reluctant to go, saying he would lose money unless I rent his boat instead of a seat. I hurried to the square nearby and enquired each person looking like a tourist if he or she was to visit the Shoe Mount. My efforts were not wasted, for eventually I "recruited" nine coming from different parts of the country. I resumed the role of their leader and brought the group back to the wharf. After nearly 10 minutes' hard bargaining with the boat owner I managed to cut the price down to 18 yuan and made the deal.

Hilt on an Embroidered Shoe

With a siren wail, our boat puffed off the Yangtze River into the vast expanse of Poyang Lake. Sitting on the fore deck in twos and threes, the group members soon became acquainted and chatted in their different dialects.

As we sailed southward, the water became clearer and deeper. When the hilly bank was far behind, we felt the strength of the wind. It rippled the surface of water and made a dazzling spindrift.

All of a sudden the young girl from Guizhou cried in excitement, "Look, the shoe!" We sprang to our feet, shielded our eyes from the strong sunshine and strained our eyes afar. Yes, on the horizon, a tiny object like an embroidered shoe for feudal ladies with bound feet was seen. It grew bigger and clearer as we approached it. We saw a pagoda atop the "shoe", as if someone had pinned the shoe there with a dagger in case the shoe would float away. The pagoda was the hilt.

We approached the mount from a side. Viewed from this angle the mount changed into a "giant high-top moun-

tain shoe". Everyone grabbed their camera busy snapping the shutter, then in turn stood in the picture to be photographed. Then the boat owner suddenly rushed out from the cabin and called in loud voice reminding us of our safety.

Before our first excitement subsided our boat moored at a wharf, a unique construction resembling an ancient water stronghold, the only place to moor a boat because the rest of the sides were all steep cliffs – just like the side of a shoe.

Following very narrow stone steps, and after a flight or two, we ascended to the entrance to the mount. We felt like passing through a customs office into a strange country.

Nothing but Water Around

After a few turns a narrow path led us to the top of the mount. Cool, refreshing wind coming from all directions, instantly dried up our sweat. At the pagoda, a new construction stood upright proudly. Young people rushed into it and up the spiral stairs excitedly. On the highest floor, panting heavily, we marvelled at the spectacular view before us: the azure vast expanse of water together with the sky hanging low on the horizon.

Poyang Lake stretched endlessly from the mount under our feet in each direction. The surface of water rippled in the vigorous autumn wind. Far away, a line of boats with a cargo of sand sailed across. Thrilled by the scene, the girl from Guizhou began to sing a song about sea. Some people clapped hands to the rhythm, some simply joined her.

The song stopped before it was finished, for down the mount above the lake we saw some huge birds flying in an orderly formation in our direction, their long wings flapping in a graceful manner. They made a beautiful curve mid-air before they landed on the highest place of the mount, the "quarter of the shoe." The person from Guangdong looked through the binoculars he had brought along and claimed they were cranes. He corrected himself by saying they were probably "egrets". After a careful observation he finally announced "they were white storks from Siberia".

What a unique mount, what a spectacular scene! They attracted not only people, but birds from the North as well.

Translated by Li Guoqing



The vast expanse of water viewed from the top of the pagoda



An Ancient Taoist Robe in a Yao Village

PHOTOS BY YE JING

TEXT BY YE JING & LIAO WUSHI

A mysterious ancient Taoist robe is housed in the Yao village of Bagu, Xilin County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Almost literally, this robe could be called a historic picture of the religion of the Yao people.

The Taoist robe is made of locally-woven cloth and dyed in black indigo. Various kinds of figures and objects are embroidered on the black cloth with floss in red, blue, yellow, white and green. The robe is 1.3 metres long, and its sleeves 0.4 metre long. As with the sleeves, plain brown material is used to border the fringes of its front flaps and



The Tailuo Hall embroidered on the back of the robe

The back of the Taoist robe

at its bottom edges of the robe. On the chest are embroidered two dragons flying into the East Sea, and below are two carps playing in the East Sea. Above the two dragons are four heavenly gods, namely Zhao, Deng, Mei and Xin, each holding a sword or a knife, standing on coloured clouds and looking down at the earth.

On the whole, the Taoist costume is a picture depicting heavenly gods waving swords among the clouds and releasing dragons into the East Sea while fish leap out of the water.

On the back of the Taoist robe, a three-storey Tailuo Hall with high ceilings and upturned eaves, is embroidered in the upper centre. In the hall stand three gods, Shangyuan, Zhongyuan and Xiayuan, looking down at the people on earth. Twenty-eight stars guard the hall, and below the hall a coloured unicorn is running towards a high full moon.

More than 80 small gods in red, blue, yellow, black and white velvet clothes line up in five rows on the Heavenly Bridge, lifelike and in various postures. Below the Heavenly Bridge is mortal earth betokened by some of China's famous mountains such as Longtang, Wudang, Lingxiang, Yujing and Hutang, rising up and down through coloured clouds. These patterns, full of imagination, are exquisite and unique in their needlework. 

Translated by M.Q.



Details on the back of the robe



A coloured unicorn is running towards the moon.



The front of the robe

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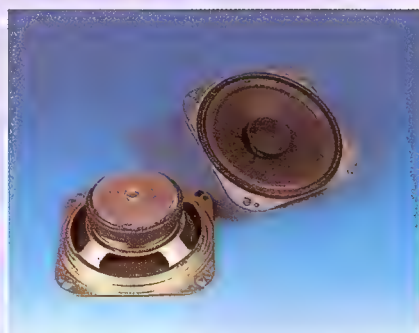
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Sichuan: A Land of Formidable Passes and Perilous Trails

ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU



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After the Battle of Chibi, Liu Bei seized Jingzhou by strategy and, having gained a solid foothold there, launched the western expedition along the Three Gorges in a bid for Yizhou Prefecture, then under the control of Liu Zhang, another scion of the imperial Han family. In a few years' time he fulfilled the plan Zhuge Liang had laid down for him during their consultations in Longzhong: Seize Sichuan and become a force to be reckoned with in the tripartite confrontation. In Chengdu, he declared himself emperor of the Kingdom of Shu.

Thus far Liu Bei had done splendidly in his manoeuvre for supremacy in China. However, the tables turned against him when he went to war once again, this time to avenge the death of Guan Yu, his sworn brother. He ended up in utter defeat, and died of illness in the isolated city of Baidi (White Emperor).

The landscape of Sichuan abounds in life-threatening mountain trails and impregnable passes. Jianmen, sitting astride the entrance to northern Sichuan, is a formidable natural fortification. Zhaohua, an ancient riverside city with high mountains rising in its background, was where Zhang Fei lit up torches and came to mortal grips with Ma Chao. The Mingyue Gorge in Guangyuan County is known for its ancient plank footpath which hangs on a stupendous rock face in a breathtaking way.

The Cuiyun Corridor is actually a 150-kilometre-long mountain trail hidden in the shade of ancient cypress trees said to have been planted by the troops under Zhang Fei, garrison commander of Langzhong, an important strategic point in northern Sichuan. In his eagerness to avenge the murder of his sworn brother Guan Yu, Zhang Fei offended two minor commanders, who slew him in his drunken stupor and took his head to Yunyang.

1. Liu Bei all but survives his rout in the Battle of Yiling, in which his 250-kilometre line of camps is burned by the army of the Kingdom of Wu (TV still).
2. Kuimen, which faces Baidi City, sits on the narrowest section of the Three Gorges, and therefore is of utter strategic importance for Sichuan.
3. The Memorial for the Battle of Xiaoting stands above the Yangtze.



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Xiaoting: An Ancient Battlefield City of Baidi: Where Liu Bei Died

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI

Resuming my western-bound journey from Jingzhou, I paid a visit to Xiaoting, the former site of the famous Battle of Yiling.

Sacrificial Altar for the Three Sworn Brothers

Xiaoting, riding the tide of the popularity of the TV series *Three Kingdoms*, has emerged as a recent new tourist attraction. To satisfy curious visitors, the local authorities have rebuilt the ruins of the former battlefield with an ancient-looking road on a vertical cliff face that overlooks the shore of the Yangtse and erected new stone tablets and statues.

Liu Bei's former observation post has grown into an imposing pavilion made of reinforced concrete, whose ground floor was where Liu Bei offered libation and sacrifices to his two slain sworn brothers, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei. The altar has been refurbished in honour of the three heroes.

The pavilion had long been completed but its doors remain shut as it waits to be consecrated by the abbot of the nearby Yuquan (Jade Spring) Temple. Mr. Jin, who was in charge of the pavilion, learned about the intention of my visit and, making an exception, opened the door for me.

According to Mr. Jin, tourists were arriving at Xiaoting in droves. Most of them are tourists and historians, but there was no lack of curious disciples — senior staff members of large companies and consortiums from Japan and South Korea who come in search of historical stories and data about military and personnel strategies which might be of help in the business world.

The Mountain City of Baidi

I took the bus from Xiaoting to Yichang, where I went on board a boat to Fengjie Wharf. Then I caught a mini-bus to Baidi.



Baidi was where Liu Bei, emperor of the Kingdom of Shu, pulled back his army after his defeat in the Battle of Yiling. The battle proved his undoing and he fell mortally sick. Before he breathed his last he sent for Zhuge Liang, who rushed from Chengdu to receive his final instructions. "I am going to die, and I have something to say to you," the emperor said to his prime minister. "I know you will be able to secure and preserve the empire and in the end attain our goal. If my heir proves worthy of support, support him. If he proves unfit, take the kingship yourself."

This deathbed testament gave the finishing touch to Liu Bei's image as an enlightened emperor. Zhuge Liang, on his part, did his best to support the newly inaugurated emperor Liu Chan. His life-long devotion to the Kingdom of Shu earned him the reputation as the paragon of loyalty.

Inside the Mingliang (Bright Benevolence) Palace, the central landmark of Baidi, I saw a group of clay sculptures which took the theme from the story about Liu Bei entrusting his heir apparent to his prime minister. To the west of the palace stands the Shrine of Marquis of Wu, Zhuge Liang.

After the Great Dam of the Three Gorges Project is completed Baidi City will become an isolated isle in the newly formed reservoir. The local government has planned to tear down the city wall of the nearby Fengjie County before it is inundated in water, and use the bricks to build a thick, tall wall around Baidi. If this plan is materialized, the mountain city of Baidi will become a veritable city-on-water.





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1. Before breathing his last, Liu Bei finds a guardian for his heir in his prime minister Zhuge Liang (TV still).
2. A group of clay sculptures in Baidi Temple captures the scene of Liu Bei entrusting his heir apparent to the assistance of Zhuge Liang (by Chan Yat Nin).
3. By patting the stone statue, it is believed one can be blessed with good fortune.
4. The Baidi Temple, a tourist attraction in the Three Gorges
5. Fortune-tellers in the streets of Xiaoting flaunt Zhuge Liang as their forefather.

Chengdu: Capital of the Kingdom of Shu

PHOTOS BY SHI BAO XIU

During the Three Kingdom Period, Chengdu was capital of the Kingdom of Shu. Any visitor to the city can be assured of enjoying at least three itinerary items: savouring as many delicacies as the city has to offer; sitting in a teahouse for a Sichuan Opera recital; and visiting the Zhuge Liang Memorial — the Shrine of Marquis Wu.

A rickshaw whisked me through the city's narrow lanes and alleyways. A motley of signboards were hanging on the gates of roadside restaurants, attracting prospective eaters with such names as "hot pot", "fish stewed with fermented vegetable" and "hot sauce noodle". The temptations of the local specialties were so irresistible that lunchtime found me visiting three restaurants in a row. When the rickshaw went past a pair of stone archways built in the Han style, the puller told me that we had entered the domain of the former capital of the Kingdom of Shu.

Zhuge Liang More Popular than Liu Bei

Presently, I arrived at an immense compound behind red walls. This is the famed Shrine of Marquis Wu but, surprisingly, the name board hanging on the front gate says this is the Temple of the august Emperor Zhao Lie.

The compound turns out to be a combination of the tomb of Liu Bei, or Emperor Zhao Lie, and a temple dedicated to his prime minister Zhuge Liang. The local people, however, prefer to call it the Shrine of Marquis Wu.

Loitering through the front gate and an inner gate, I found myself inside the memorial hall for Liu Bei, where a gilded statue casts him in the image of an all-important monarch. In the left corner stands a sculpture of Liu Chen, the emperor's grandson. The eastern wing of the hall is enshrined with the statues of Guan Yu, Liu's sworn brother, and his two sons Guan Xing and Guan Ping. In the western wing I saw the statue of Zhang Fei, his son Zhao Bao, and his grandson

Zhang Zun. The likenesses of 14 major generals and officials of the Kingdom of Shu are displayed in the transepts on both sides of the hall.

Right behind Liu Bei's hall stands the Zhuge Liang Memorial, where the air is heavy with the smoke of burning incense sticks. The statue of the prime minister is placed between those of his son and grandson. With a plume fan in hand, Zhuge wears a reposed facial expression. To see this statue is probably the singular purpose of many of those who come to the compound.

To the west of the Shrine of Marquis Wu lies the Huiling, or the tomb of Liu Bei, an earth mound covered with bushes and wild grass. For centuries it had been believed this is where Liu Bei's remains were buried.

The belief, however, was thrown in doubt on a summer day in 1994. A number of villagers were drilling a well on the Lianhua Hill, one kilometre from Lianhua Village in Pengshan County near Chengdu. Suddenly, at a depth of 10 metres, their drill hit something solid. The subsequent digging revealed a line of stone slabs. Underneath the stone slabs runs an eight-metre-long ditch, which was actually an unusually large tomb chamber.

After comparing the spot with historical documents, archaeologists came to the conclusion that while Zhuge Liang had a tomb built in the city, he had Liu Bei's coffin loaded onto a ship which sailed



1. The incense-burner placed in front of the Shrine of Marquis Wu serves as a reminder of Prime Minister Zhuge Liang's splendid military career.
2. A stone inscription of Yue Fei's two war declarations
3. Despite its official name in honour of Liu Bei, Emperor Zhao Lie of the Kingdom of Shu, the local people prefer to call this structure "The Shrine of Marquis Wu".
4. The gateway to Chengdu, the "City of Shu"
5. A gilded statue of Zhuge Liang (by Huang Yanhong)





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down Fuhe River to a place called Huanglongxi. There he had his emperor's remains buried near Lianhua Village.

However, this theory won't be verified until the tomb is excavated.

Temple of Zhao Zilong at the Foot of Jinping Mountain

The tomb of General Zhao Yun, style name Zilong, is situated at the foot of the Jinping (Scenic Screen) Mountain in Dayi, a county near Chengdu.

Zhao was as well-versed in the art of war as Guan Yu and Zhang Fei for numerous meritorious deeds — which included saving Liu Bei's son from the turmoil of war — he was the apple of the eye for both Liu Bei and Zhuge Liang. However, Zhao always remembered which side of his bread was buttered, and because of his modesty he got along perfectly with those around him. He breathed his last in peace and after his death his remains were buried in a place of sequestered repose.

The temple of Zilong was much frequented until it was demolished during the "cultural revolution". Today a vocational school has

been built on the ruins. The temple's main hall, which has survived the chaos, has long been converted into a students' dormitory.

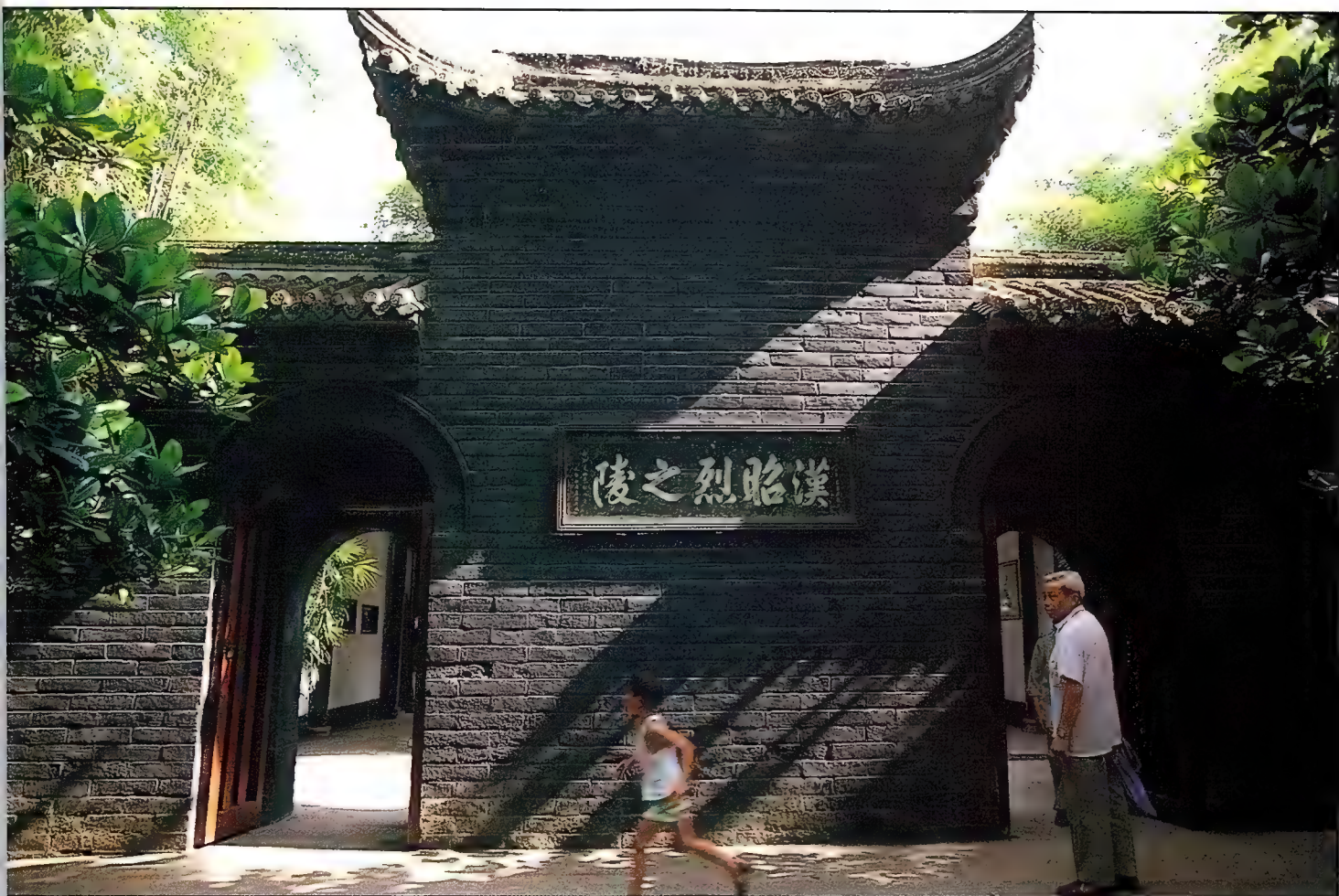
A few years ago the local people built Zilong Pavilion and erected a statue of the general in the Jinping Park. During tourist seasons people from Chengdu come in flocks to pay homage to the general.

The tomb of Ma Chao, one of the five major generals of the Kingdom of Shu, was located close by Ma Chao Village in Xindu, another county in the vicinity of Chengdu. The tomb and his temple were likewise destroyed during the "cultural revolution". A primary school which bears the general's name has been built on the former site of the temple; the school is the only landmark extant in the general's memory.

1. Liu Bei's real tomb, looked at from a distance (by Li Yulong)
2. The only structure extant today associated with the life of Ma Chao, a Shu general (by Liu Chenping)
3. The tomb of Liu Bei in the Temple of Emperor Zhao Lie in Chengdu is likely to be a fake, designed by Zhuge Liang to hoodwink the kingdom's enemies.
4. The temple in honour of Zhao Zilong is frequented by pilgrims from Chengdu and elsewhere (by Li Yulong).



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Fallen Phoenix Slope at Deyang and Cuiyun Corridor at Zitong

PHOTOS BY CHEN JIN

Deyang, a county situated not far from Xindu, rose to fame when local artists created an immense carved wall, but it was the Lutou (Deer Head) Hill that drew me there. It turns out to be a rather inconspicuous hillock in the county's Luojiang Town, but this does not in the least affect its importance. On its slope lies the tomb of Pang Tong, Liu Bei's other trusted advisor considered as talented as Zhuge Liang.

Both Pang, whose Taoist name was Young Phoenix, and Zhuge Liang, style name Sleeping Dragon, were disciples of Sima Hui a recluse by the Taoist name of "Still Water". During a chance encounter the recluse told Liu, "Sleeping Dragon, Young Phoenix — either of these two have the ability to settle our turbulent realm." However, because of his ugly face and his straightforward personality, Pang Tong failed to win the trust of any of the warlords. At first, Liu Bei appointed Pang as magistrate of a small county and asked Zhang Fei to conduct a secret investigation on him. Upon discovering another strategic talent in Pang, Liu immediately installed him as his vice-advisor. On Liu's expedition of Yizhou in Sichuan, Pang's resourcefulness stood him in good stead.

Death at the Fallen Phoenix Hill

In the battle of Luoxian (present-day Deyang) as the first step towards the conquest of Chengdu, Pang Tong ignored Zhuge Liang's proposal that the march to Chengdu be postponed. Taking Zhuge's advice for jealousy of his credit for seizing Sichuan, Pang urged Liu Bei to press on with his offensive. Before the two departed for a pincer attack, Liu noticed that Pang's mount was balking and stumbling and gave his white horse to Pang so that he could stand the rigours of travelling on the bumpy mountain road.



By the time Pang Tong reached the foot of the Lutou Hill, he was astonished to learn that the name of the place was Fallen Phoenix Slope. A sense of foreboding seized him, for the name coincided with his own Taoist name, Young Phoenix. He ordered an immediate retreat but it was too late. The bombard had sounded and bolts converged like locusts on the white horse. By the white horse the ambushers thought they had caught Liu Bei, and shot both the mount and the man to death. Pang died at the age of 36. Attributing the white horse as the cause of

Pang's ill fate, the local people renamed the place White Horse Pass.

The tomb on the hill used to nestle in the shade of a grove of cypress trees so big that it is difficult for anyone to get their arms around the trunks. Today, however, only one tree is left there.

Peicheng: Where Two Royal Scions Met

Liu Bei launched his march on Sichuan by seizing upon a golden opportunity. Liu Zhang, another scion of the imperial Han family had invited him to Yizhou to help keep Cao Cao's invading army at bay. The invitation coincided with Liu Bei's plan to first take control of Jingzhou and then seize Yizhou, a plan he had mapped out with Zhuge Liang during their meetings in Longzhong. Little did Liu Zhang know that he was courting disaster by inviting a wolf into his house.

Liu Zhang, a honest man, greeted his scheming cousin during a hundred-day feast on Fule Hill in Peicheng (present-day Mianyang).

Today, more than 1,000 years later, the hill has long been converted into a public park. Inside the imposing Fule Hall, which sits atop the hill, a wall painting captures a scene of that meeting between the two Han scions.





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1. A group of clay sculptures depicts the meeting between Liu Bei and his imperial cousin Liu Zhang at Peicheng.
2. Stone animal in front of the tomb of Jiang Wan, a major general of the Kingdom of Shu (by Du Baotong)
3. This tall building in the Fule Park provides a bird's-eye view of the former glory of the Kingdom of Shu (by Du Baotong).
4. Fallen Phoenix Hill, where Pang Tong was shot to death by an arrow
5. Pang Tong's tomb kept in good condition by admirers

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On the Huangtu Ridge southwest of Mianyang City, I saw the ruins of barracks Zhuge Liang had built on a northern expedition. In Xishan (Western Hill) Park, the tomb of Jiang Wan, a major general of the Kingdom of Shu, is still in perfect condition.

From Zitong to Cuiyun Corridor

On the road from Mianyang north to Zitong, the mountains rise steadily and the land becomes narrower and narrower until it is reduced to tiny plots of flat land. On a mountain slope north of the county seat of Zitong stands the Wakou Pass, which is the starting point of the Jinniu (Golden Ox) Trail in central Sichuan. Looking south from atop the newly restored watch-tower on the pass, I saw a kaleidoscopic view of rolling hills, farmland and gentle rivers. To the north, the landscape was taken over by a jumble of mountains which shoot their peaks upwards to unbelievable heights. The Jinniu Trail is a typical Sichuan mountain path which cuts a truculent course north through Jianmen Pass, Zhaohua and Guangyuan in Sichuan and Hanzhong in Shaanxi until it reaches its other terminal at Guanzhong.

The 150-kilometre Wakou-Jianmen section of the trail is flanked on both sides by towering cypress trees whose luxuriant foliage combine to form an overhead canopy. Hence the name: Cuiyun (Emerald Cloud) Corridor.

The "corridor" is said to be created by Zhang Fei in his days as garrison commander of western Sichuan. With trunks so thick that two men can hardly get their linked arms around them, locals call the cypress trees "Zhang Fei Cypress".

The flagged road of the Emerald Cloud Corridor has long given way to an asphalt-surfaced highway save for a half-kilometre section called Han-Tang Post Road close by Jianmen Park. On this section the blue stone slabs are well preserved under the shadows of the tall trees whose gnarling branches are thick enough to block out the sun. Strolling down the road, I felt I had retreated back into history.

1. A stretch of the Han-Tang official trail, lined on both sides with ancient cypress trees, is well preserved in this public park (by Shi Bao Xiu).
2. A stretch of flat land spreads south of Wakou Pass on the northernmost end of the Jinniu Trail.
3. Jinniu Trail: cart ruts dating back to the Three Kingdoms period
4. This cypress tree is said to have been planted by Zhang Fei (by Shi Bao Xiu).
5. Bronze figurine unearthed in Mianyang (by Shi Bao Xiu)
6. A temple in memory of Guan Yu sits right beside this Buddhist temple in Zitong, despite the fact that in his lifetime the general had never been to this place, which was then under the jurisdiction of his sworn brother Zhang Fei (by Hu Wugong).



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Jianmen Pass: A Natural Fortification

At the end of the Emerald Cloud Corridor towers the Jianmen Pass, known as "Number One Pass Under Heaven".

The pass is sandwiched in between perpendicular rock walls 10 times as tall as a man-made city wall, a wonder performed by earth's erratic crustal movement in remote antiquity. Not even the bravest corps in the world could storm the pass if policed by a small army.

Jianmen Pass sits on a depression in this natural fortification. A new watch-tower has just been built astride two vertical cliffs, and the auxiliary walls, battlements and mountain paths are under construction. With its gate tightly shut, nobody, not even a mountain rat, has the hope of climbing into the pass.

A Single Pass Holds off a Mighty Army

In the late Three Kingdoms period, the Kingdom of Wei launched an offensive against the Kingdom of Shu. Under the commander of Generals Deng Ai and Zhong Hui, the Wei troops forced the Shu general Jiang Wei's army to pull from Hanzhong in Shaanxi to the safety of Jianmen Pass. Zhong Hui's 100,000-strong crack force would have caught up had it not been for Jianmen Pass, a natural barrier which extended for 50 kilometres on end. Had it not been for Deng Ai's sneak attack of the Yinping Path which enabled him to make a



detour by way of Jiangyou Pass and seize Chengdu, the doom of the Kingdom of Shu would have been delayed for some time for the single reason of the impregnable Jianmen Pass.

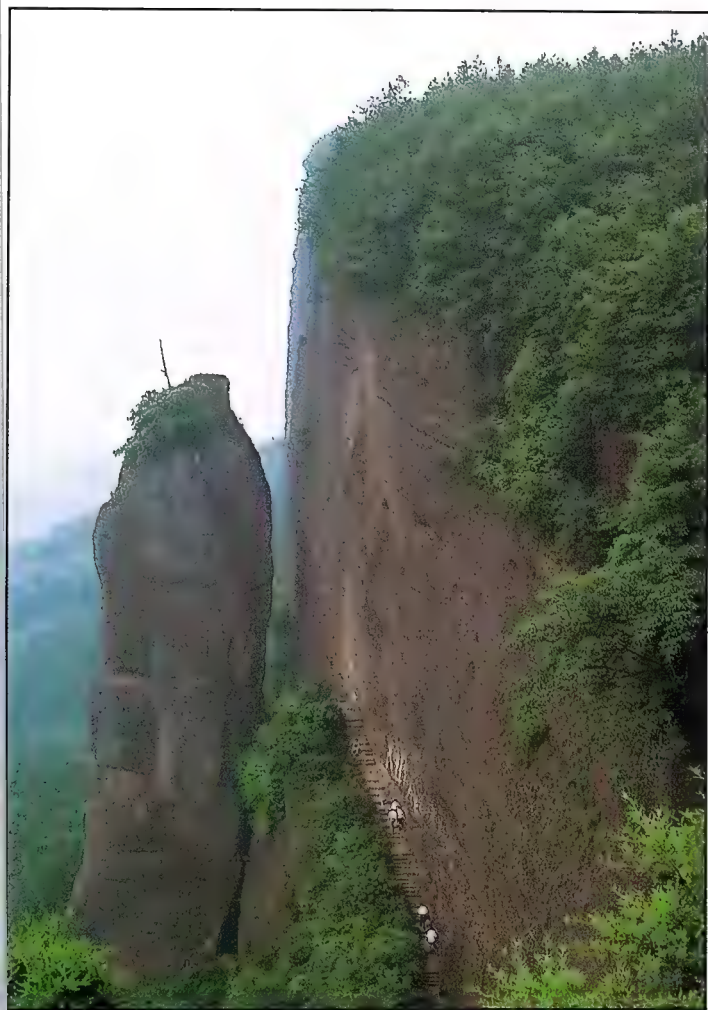
The formidable pass of bygone days has become part of a thoroughfare between Sichuan and Shaanxi. Jianmen Town has prospered as a result, with its main street lined with a cluster of beancurd workshops. The boom

of this beancurd business is attributed to the high quality of the local water, which produces beancurd of a tender, smooth texture and an unusually sweet taste.

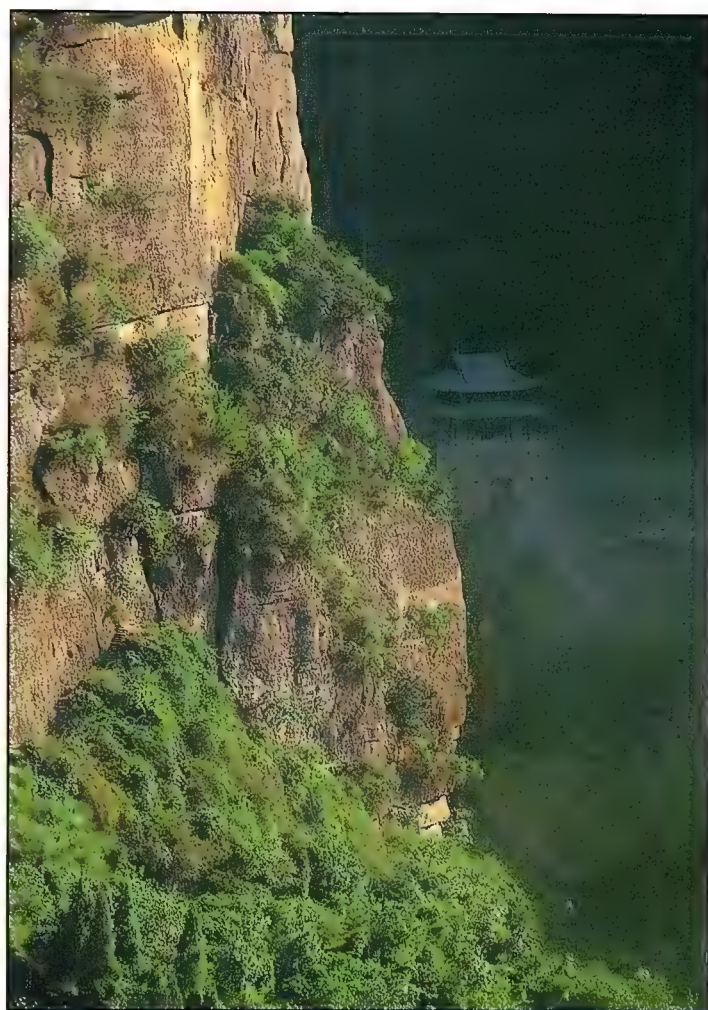
In one of the beancurd shops, I was treated to a dinner where the eight courses were all made from beancurd.

1. Jiang Wei, commander of the Shu Kingdom army preparing against an attack from the 100,000-strong Wei army at Jianmen Pass (TV still).
2. In the background of this ancient bridge, the Dajian Mountain looms like a solid wall that extends 50 kilometres on end (by Shi Bao Xiu).
3. This fortification is a nightmare for whoever wants to capture it (by Hu Wugong).
4. The newly refurbished Tower of Jianmen Pass looks all the more magnificent in the shadows of the Dajian Mountain (by Shi Bao Xiu).
5. Jian'ge, an ancient tower on one of the mountain trails in Sichuan (by Chen Jin)





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A Duel Before Jiameng Pass

Travelling north from Jianmen Pass I reached Zhaohua, a tiny ancient city encircled on three sides by the Jialing River with the Niutou (Ox Head) Mountain lurking in the background.

The Place Where a Fierce Battle Was Fought

A three-metre-tall stone tablet, erected by the road bear the three Chinese characters "Jia Meng Pass". Only then did I know that Zhaohua was none other than the famous Jiameng Pass where Zhang Fei lit up torches and fought Ma Chao at dusk.

After the death of Pang Tong, Liu Bei dispatched Zhuge Liang to Sichuan to direct the campaign for Yizhou. With the advisor's arrival the tables quickly turned in Liu Bei's favour. They first captured Luoxian and then Mianzhu. On the eve of Liu Bei's onslaught against Chengdu, Liu Zhang formed an alliance with Zhang Lu, protector of Hanzhong. Zhang immediately dispatched his mighty general Ma Chao to attack Jiameng Pass so as to contain Liu Bei's attack on Chengdu. Liu responded by sending Zhang Fei and Wei Yan to cope with Ma Chao.

Before long the two ferocious fighters, Zhang and Ma confronted each other in front of Jiameng Pass. Having fought for an entire afternoon, they lit up torches in the evening and came to mortal grips with each other once again. Neither prevailed and they had to withdraw. Then, Zhuge Liang rushed to the scene. He sowed discord between Ma and his boss. In his dilemma, Ma had no alternative but



to submit to Liu Bei in front of the pass.

Zhaohua an Ancient City

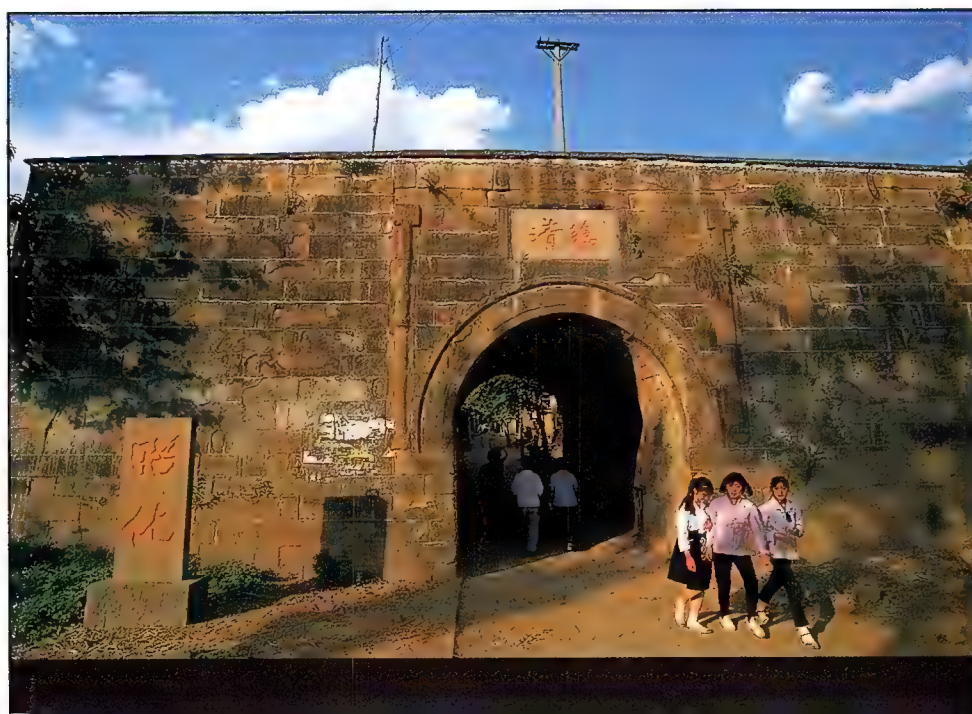
Zhaohua has kept its venerable antiquity intact. The three city gates are kept in good condition, though the city towers have crumbled. The flagged streets are lined on both sides with ancient houses and shops. Inside a traditional Chinese pharmacy, I saw an air-dried snake, a tangle of *Ligusticum wallichii* and

a bundle of eucommia bark hanging down from a roof beam.

The stone well to the east of the northern city gate is something of a meeting place for residents in the neighbourhood. In between fetching water from the well, which is a twice a day routine for each family, they have ample time to swap the latest information in town.

The war of the Three Kingdoms has long been consigned to the dustbin of history, but modern ways of life are slow in coming. This lull enables residents in this tiny city to retain their quiet and congenial living environment.

1. Zhang Fei and Ma Chao, both ferocious warriors, come to mortal grips with each other; neither prevails after several hundred bouts (TV still).
2. The South Gate of the ancient city of Zhaohua (by Shi Bao Xiu)
3. A stone tablet erected by a pass outside the city of Zhaohua (by Shi Bao Xiu)
4. Like the ancient city itself, this old well has seen many ups and downs in the mundane world (by Chen Jin).
5. Zhaohua, a city rooted in the tradition of the Kingdom of Shu (by Huang Yanhong)





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1. This ancient ferry crossing sits right on the Jinniu Trail (by Shi Bao Xiu).
2. The ancient Jinniu Trail below Jianmen Pass (by Chen Jin)
3. Ancient buildings like this one are common in Zhaohua (by Shi Bao Xiu).
4. After his occupation of Sichuan, Liu Bei stationed his army twice for more than one year in Jiameng Pass, where he sought to win popularity by contributing to the local people's well-being (TV still).
5. Ruins of Tianxiong Pass on the Niutou Mountain (by Huang Yanhong)



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Liu Bei's Barracks and Tianxiong Pass

At Peicheng, Liu Bei accepted donations from Liu Zhang — troops, horses, and rations and forage — and entered Jiameng Pass towards the end of the year 211. Under the pretext of helping his imperial cousin to thwart a possible invasion from Zhang Lu, Liu Bei started building up his own strength on the sly.

During his stay in Jiameng Pass, Liu repeated what he did during his days in Xinye: courting the hearts of the residents by devoting himself to philanthropic undertakings. At the southern city gate of Zhaohua I embarked on a road to Jianmen. On both sides of the road, bare-footed farmers with sleeves rolled up high were busy transplanting rice seedlings in paddy fields.

I was told that Liu Bei's troops achieved self-sufficiency in grain supply by reclaiming the entire mountain slope that now laid before me. The local people were very grateful to him for freeing them from the heavy burden of grain levies.

Half way up the Niutou Mountain, I visited the ruins of the former Tianxiong (Heavenly Valour) Pass. The ancient structure was no more,



and all the walls were lying in debris. Five stone tablets, which bore the marks of decay, were the only reminders of the former glory of the place.

Ancient Ferry Crossing by Jialing River

Walking down the two-kilometre-long road from the northern city gate of Zhaohua, I reached a ferry crossing by the Jialing River. A 30-seat wooden

boat shuttled between the southern and northern banks. In ancient times this crossing was on a road which linked Sichuan and Shaanxi provinces. This was where Jiang Wei, Zhuge Liang's successor, crossed the river and withdrew his army back to Jianmen Pass. The ferry business is quickly losing ground to the highways and railways; the otherwise sleepy wharf comes alive only when regular liners pull in to handle cargo.

A number of freighters were berthed in the wharf. The two large Chinese characters, "Lang Zhong", printed on their hulls indicate that they belong to the Langzhong Navigation Company. I went aboard one of them, which carried me overnight to Langzhong for a visit of Zhang Fei Temple.



Langzhong: Zhang Fei's Precinct

The mountain city of Langzhong is surrounded on three sides by the Jialing River. With rocky eminences swelling high above the river bank, its landscape is unique.

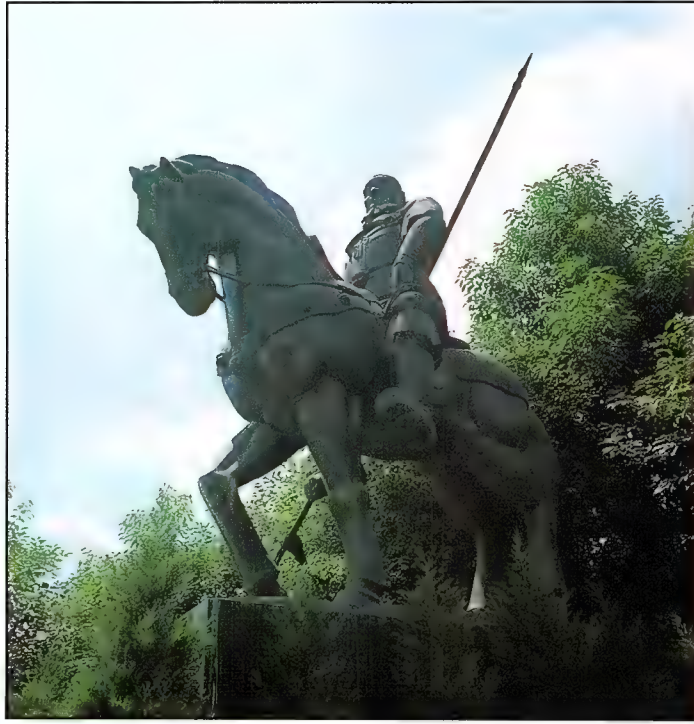
Langzhong was where Zhang Fei spent the last seven years of his life as protector of western Sichuan. His heroic military career came to an abrupt end when he was assassinated in drunken stupor.

After his death, Zhang Fei's remains were buried in Langzhong. Beside the tomb a temple was built and dedicated to his memory.

During the "cultural revolution" the temple was torn down, and his statues smashed to pieces. His tomb was dug up, leaving a depression seven to eight metres deep. Some of the bricks and burial objects, such as weapons and terracotta figurines, were removed.

A decade ago these cultural relics were retrieved and a statue of the hero was erected there once again.

The current Zhang Fei Temple is a quadrangle composed of a memorial hall and his tomb. In the memorial hall situated behind a stone archway, I was surprised to see the hero's two-metre-tall statue cast in the image of a civil official who donned a jade crown, a long robe and held a jade tablet in hand. Despite Zhang Fei's reputation as a hard-fibred individual, I was told, he was actually a resourceful man of letters. His calligraphy and painting were extolled in ancient books. His prose, "Notes Written on Horseback", was inscribed on a stone tablet and kept in the Forest of Stone Tablets in Langzhong.



Zhang Fei: Langzhong's Guardian God

A stone utensil, elaborately carved and encrusted with dragons, is placed right in front of Zhang Fei's statue. The locals call it "ever-burning lamp". To commemorate Zhang Fei's contribution to the city's peace and prosperity a hired stone mason hewed a choice piece of stone into this lamp. During Qingming Festival every year, local residents make a point to come to sweep the tomb and donate contributions of oil to the ever-burning lamp.

During my three-day stay in Langzhong, I heard an earful on Zhang Fei. The local people call him Third Uncle Zhang and regard him as their guardian god. Legend has it that once upon a time, the Jialing River overflowed its banks. The ex-

cessive water inundated the stone stairs at the western city gate and was threatening the city proper. At this critical juncture, Third Uncle Zhang made his divine power felt by poking his spear into the other side of the river. A huge canal appeared, and the flood immediately beat a retreat.

1. A sculpture of Zhang Fei in the Tengwangge Park in Langzhong (by Pan Mingqing)
2. The Temple of Zhang Fei in Langzhong (by Shi Bao Xiu)
3. Jinping Mountain, the reputed No. 1 scenic spot on the Jialing River (by Liao Guoyan)
4. Buried in this tomb in Langzhong is Zhang Fei's headless body (by Huang Yanhong).





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The Whereabouts of Zhang Fei's Head

In the backyard of Zhang Fei Temple, made posthumously Marquis Huan, I saw Zhang Fei's tomb, a yellow earth mound covered with wild grass and brambles.

For all the heroics in his lifetime, the hero died a tragic death, with his head severed from his body. Where is his head now? The classical novel *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* failed to give an explanation.

Folk tales give colourful and definite answers to this question. One tale has it that Third Uncle Zhang, in his eagerness to avenge Second Uncle Guan's murder, beat up Fan Jiang and Zhang Da, two minor commanders who openly complained about the task they had been assigned to prepare white banners and white armour so that the army could set forth against the Kingdom of Wu under the colour of mourning. In desperation, the two men decided to rebel.

In the dead of night, they slipped into the tent where Zhang was found asleep after a drinking spree, and chopped at his throat, but the knife refused to inflict even the slightest wound. Suddenly Zhang spoke in his dream, "Second Elder Brother, your younger brother has come to avenge your death!" The two traitors stood paralyzed and their knife started shaking. Feeling itchy in his neck, Zhang thought it was a mosquito; his hand rose and fell on the knife. Under the compact his head was severed.

Body in Langzhong, Head in Yunyang

Fan and Zhang fled by boat, wanting to make a present of Zhang Fei's head to the Kingdom of Wu. By the time they reached the



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Tongluo Ferry, they learned that the Kingdom of Wu had just sent a peace convey to Liu Bei. Their hope for an award dashed, they tossed the head into the river and ran for their lives. An old fisherman retrieved the head and buried it at the foot of the Fenghuang (Phoenix) Mountain in Yunyang. This story explains why there are two tombs and temples dedicated to Zhang Fei in Sichuan.

Four Chinese characters, meaning "Gentle wind sweeps across the river", are carved up a riverside cliff. Yunyang's Tem-

ple of Zhang Fei stands right on the top of that cliff.

This structure, named the Shrine of Marquis Huan, is a masterpiece of classical Chinese architecture. When the Three Gorges Dam is completed, however, the temple will be submerged in water. A plan has been made to move Zhang Fei's skull and his temple together with the city of Yunyang to Shuanjiang, a place further up the Yangtse River.

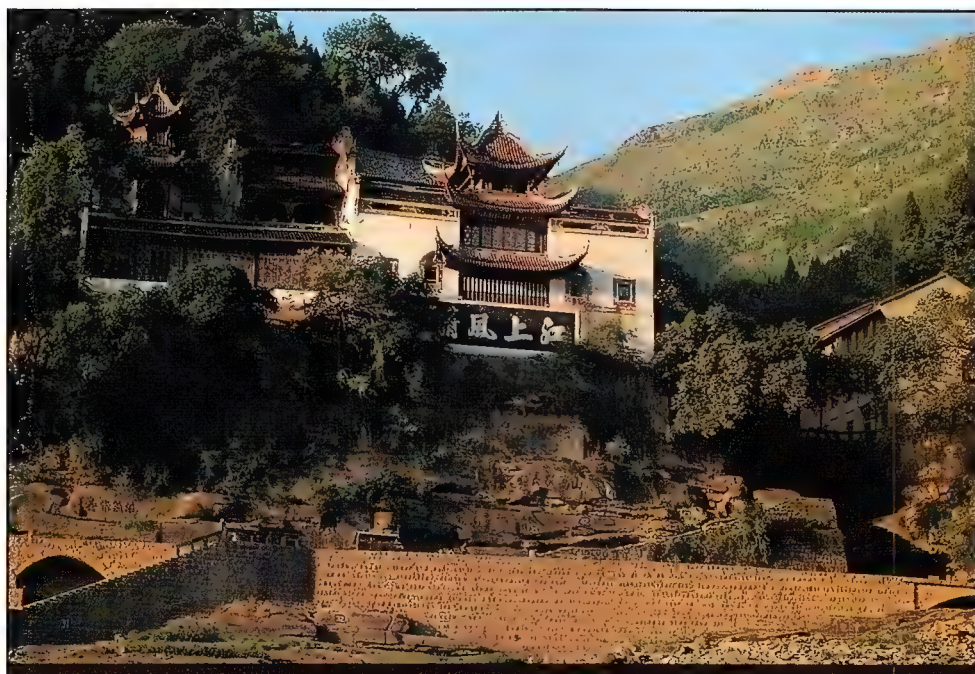
1. Leather-silhouette shows in Langzhong are teeming with images of the Three Kingdoms period (by Liu Guangfu).

2. This group of clay sculptures in the Temple of Zhang Fei in Yunyang takes its theme from the story "The Peach Garden Pact" (by Xie Guanghui).

3. In a Langzhong teahouse, a story-teller gives a vivid account of the legendary Third Uncle Zhang's heroics (by Shi Bao Xiu).

4. Zhang Fei, who keeps Cao Cao's mighty army at bay by making an uproar at Changbanpo Bridge in Dangyang, does not in the least expect that, one day he would be assassinated in sleep by his subordinates (TV still).

5. Zhang Fei Temple in Yunyang on the shore of the Yangtse River (by Chan Yat Nin)



5

Qingchuan: Yinping Trail and Motian Mountain

The road from Langzhong to Guangyuan consists of some hair-raising stretches of switchbacks which wind up and down one peak after another. When our bus made a rough-and-tumble turn, we looked down the deep ravine and shuddered to see the charred wreckage of a bus lying at the bottom. According to the driver, this is one of the most dangerous mountain trails in Sichuan. A slip of attention could lead to disastrous consequences.

I stopped at Qingchuan county seat for lunch and got a lift on a truck which belonged to the local afforestation bureau, to arrive at the county's timberland reserve. Lurking in the background is the Motian (Heaven Scraping) Mountain, famous for its strategic importance during the Three Kingdoms period.

Early the next morning I set off with a team of lumbermen to climb the mountain by a steep footpath. By noon I managed to mount one of the ridges. From the top of a wooden scaffolding for fire-prevention observation purposes, I got an all-encapsulating vision of the Heaven Scraping Mountain, where every peak is a nightmare for even experienced mountaineers. In the distance the main peak looked ethereal behind a veil of gathering fog.

Deng Ai: Rolling Down the Cliff Cocooned in Blankets

The menacing terrain of the Motian Mountain made Zhuge Liang's successor, Jiang Wei so sure of his army's safety that he turned a deaf ear to his subordinate, Huang Jue, who reminded him of the possibility of a surprise enemy attack on Chengdu by way of Yinping.

Jiang Wei's misjudgment proved Deng Ai's good blessing. The



Wei general and his troops launched an expedition from Yinping (north of present-day Wenxian County, Gansu Province) with his son, Deng Zhong, leading a vanguard of 5,000 daredevils. When Deng Ai met his son a few days later, he saw his men groaning and weeping helplessly. In front of them, the mass of sheer walls of rock and giant cliffs offered no passage ahead. Deng Ai ordered the men first to slide their weapons down the far side of the slope. He then wrapped himself in felle padding and rolled down the slope. His lieutenant

who had felt jackets on followed suit. Those without wound the ropes they had brought with them around their waists and went down in a single line, grabbing at trees and hanging from shrubs. In this way Deng Ai and his soldiers made it over the Motian Mountain.

Resuming his forced march, Deng Ai's force swept past a series of fortifications until he gobbled up Chengdu and toppled the Kingdom of Shu.

1. Deng Ai's warriors groaning and moaning as their forced march is cut short by the sheer walls of rock and giant cliffs rising from the Motian Mountain (TV still).
2. Tales about Deng Ai are still being told and retold in Qingxi, an ancient town at the foot of the Motian Mountain (by Chen Jin).
3. The plank trail at Baishui Pass in Qingchuan County's Baihe Township (by Huang Yanhong)
4. The suspension bridge at Baishui Pass (by Chen Jin)
5. A bird's-eye view from atop the Douchui Mountain: the Peijiang Plain extends as far as the eye can see (by Shi Bao Xiu).





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Guangyuan: Plank Path Rebuilt in Mingyue Gorge

Guangyuan, known in ancient times as Lizhou, is situated where Shaanxi, Gansu and Sichuan provinces cross their borders. In history it was regarded as the gateway to Sichuan.

Guangyuan is also the birthplace of Empress Wu Zetian of the Tang Dynasty. The Huangze Temple in the county is dedicated to the memory of the female monarch. Opposite the temple across the river rises the Thousand-Buddha Cliff, whose entire rock face is scooped into niches crowded with the statutes of Buddhist saints.

The famed Jinniu Trail starts from Wakou Pass in Zitong and winds its way along the Emerald Cloud Corridor, past Jianmen and Jiameng passes to Guangyuan, continuing northward until it reaches its terminal at Yangping Pass in Shaanxi Province. The section from Guangyuan County turns out to be a plank path which hangs precariously on sheer cliffs that rise above the Jialing River. Today, the ancient trail has been rendered desolate by the advent of modern highways.

Cliff-Hanging Ancient Road in Mingyue Gorge

Despite its breathtaking look, the plank path around the Thousand-Buddha Cliff is no match to its counterpart that skirts the Mingyue Gorge.

Driving along the Sichuan-Shaanxi Highway that runs parallel to the Jialing River in the direction of the Mingyue Gorge, I saw a gigantic mountain range ahead, cut in two by the rushing river. In no time the car entered a one-sided "tunnel" — hewn into a rock wall at a height of more than a hundred metres above the river.

Facing this trail across the river is the Baoji-Chengdu Railway, likewise carved into sheer cliffs. A dark green train was roaring its way northward, vanishing and appearing intermittently.

An array of log rafts, hanging in the sky from a plunging cliff on the other side of the Jialing River, forms the entrance to the Mingyue



Gorge. This is the fabled plank way by which Liu Bei transported his troops to Hanzhong and by which Zhong Hui, a general of the Kingdom of Wei, unleashed his attack on the Kingdom of Shu.

Building Plank Trails: A Dangerous Task

A team of workers were toiling on the vertical cliff to extend the ancient plank way. In their wake they had left two rows of square holes drilled at regular intervals. Square logs were to be planted into the holes in

the upper row, so that wooden planks can be nailed to these logs to form the footpath. The holes in the lower row were used to fasten diagonal struts which bolster up the upper row of square logs. At places a third row of holes were drilled so that a thatched roof could be put above the trail.

There are at least a dozen such plank trails in Sichuan, which wind their way through the Qingling, Daba and Micang mountains. Judging from the arduousness of the engineering work and the immense quantity of materials needed, the task of building of these mountain trails is no less difficult than the construction of the Great Wall in north China.

Translated by Ling Yuan

1. Zhong Hui's 100,000-strong army launches its expedition on the Kingdom of Shu by way of the plank trail that hangs precariously from the rock face of the Mingyue Gorge (TV still).
2. Reconstructing the ancient plank trail in the Mingyue Gorge (by Chen Jin)
3. The modern Sichuan-Shaanxi Highway runs above the ancient plank trail (by Hu Wugong).
4. The Mingyue Gorge has become a tourist attraction in the city of Guangyuan (by Shi Bao Xiu).
5. A road to Sichuan once passed by the foot of the Thousand-Buddha Cliff (by Shi Bao Xiu)





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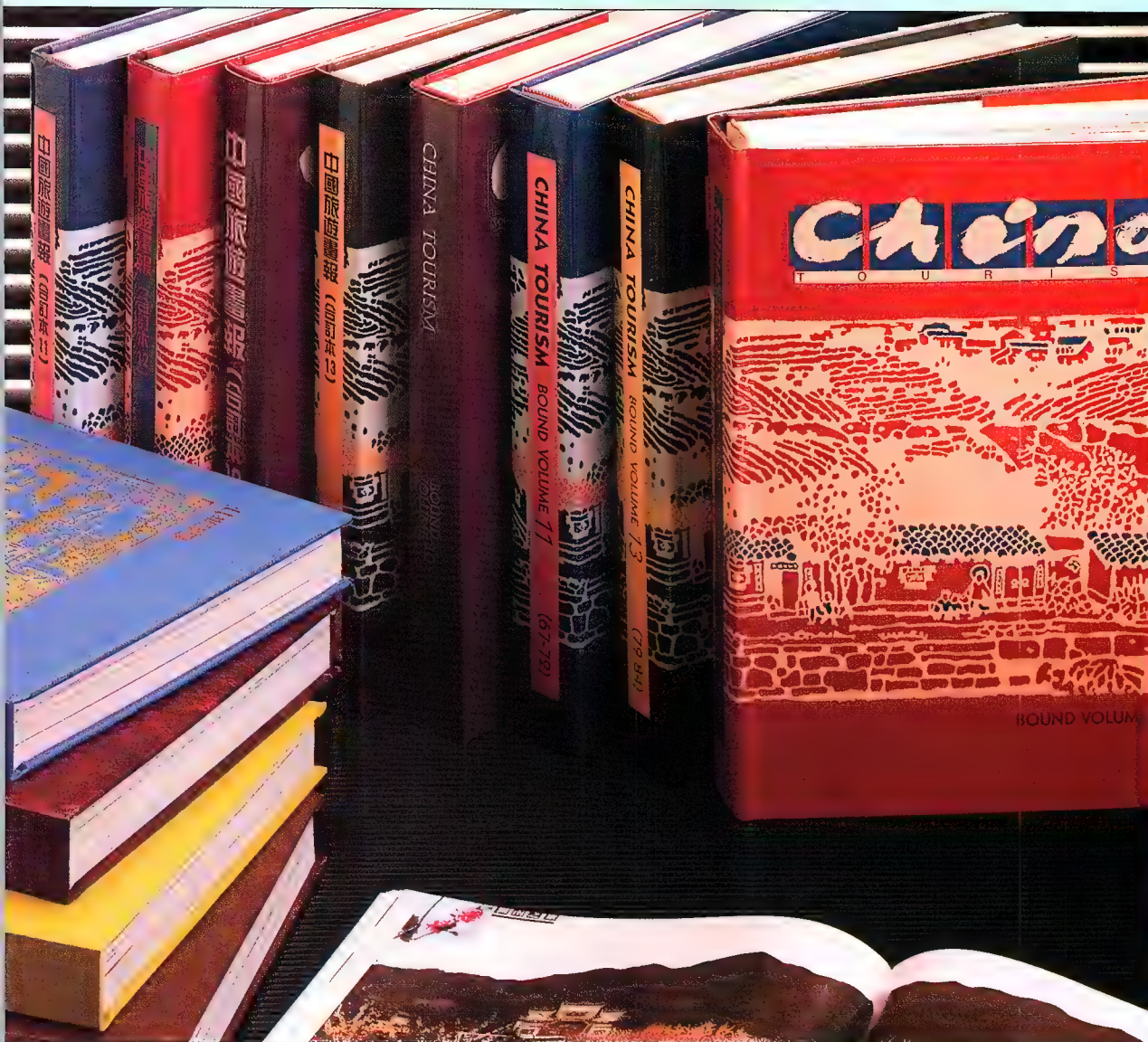
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Shang-Dynasty Tomb in Xingan County, Jiangxi Province

ARTICLE BY PENG SHIFAN

If the Yangtze were but a remote land of barbarians. This theory, however, was first cast in doubt with the discovery of a Shang-dynasty site at Wucheng, in Jiangxi Province's Qingjiang County in the mid-1970s. Then, five years ago, it was left defunct by the excavation of a Shang-dynasty (1600-1100 B.C.) tomb in Dayangzhou Township, Jiangxi Province's Xingan County.

A Haphazard Discovery

Discovered by a farmer in Dayangzhou Township in Xingan County on September 20, 1989, the provincial authorities immediately dispatched a team of archaeologists to the scene. Excavation got under way soon afterwards.

According to local people, the tomb used to be an oval mound which protruded three to four metres from the ground and extended 40 metres from east to west and 20 metres from north to south. Years of constant digging of earth for the construction of a nearby river dyke gradually levelled this and several other mounds in the vicinity which lay like a group of umbrellas. The local people believe that numerous jars of gold and silver were buried under these mounds by some rich merchants and noble houses.

Both the inner and outer coffins were gone when the tomb was unearthed. On the basis of a careful examination of the vestiges of paint left over from the panels of the outer coffin and the colours of the sand and earth that formed the platform, archaeologists concluded that this used to be an oblong rammed-earth funeral chamber for a coffin contained in an outer sarcophagus.

A total of 993 sacrificial objects were unearthed from the tomb, including 486 items bronzeware, 151 jade carvings and 356 items of pottery ware.

The bronzeware include ritual vessels, musical instruments, tools, weapons, religious vessels, ornaments and daily utensils, but most of them are weapons and tools.

The jade carvings, which bear exquisite marks of fine craftsmanship, include *cong* (square ornaments with a hole in the middle), *bi* (round in shape with a hole in the middle), *jue* (a piece of jade from which a segment has been cut), *huan* (rings) and *yuan* (narrow-rimmed ornaments with a large hole in the middle), necklaces and linked hoops. The others are in the shape of hook weapon, adze, cicada, frog, and fish. There are also jade orna-

ments with human and animal mask designs and linked hoops made of crystal.

The pottery ware include clayware, sandy earthen ware, glazed wares, primitive forms of porcelain as well as items whose surfaces are ornamented with geometric designs. There are cooking tripods with hollowed legs, jars, round

tripod vessels with handles and capped columns, three-legged tripods, wine cups, basins, hemispherical bowls with a high stem and spreading foot, pots and lids, but most of them are partitioned cauldrons and jars with a small opening and folded shoulders.

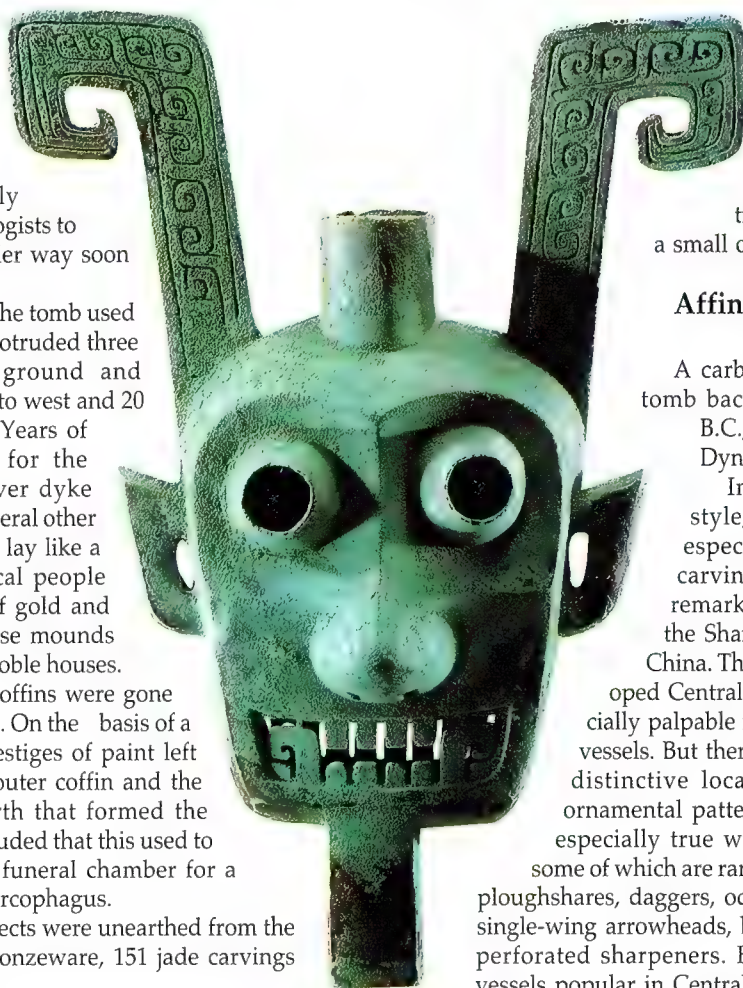
Affinity with Central China Shang Culture

A carbon-14 examination dates the tomb back to the 13th-12th centuries B.C., in the twilight of the Shang Dynasty in Central China.

In design and ornamental style, some of the bronze items, especially the ritual vessels, jade carvings and pottery ware, bear a remarkable resemblance to those of the Shang-dynasty culture in Central China. The influence of the highly developed Central China bronze culture is especially palpable in the making of bronze ritual vessels. But there are also objects which show distinctive local characteristics in design, ornamental pattern and craftsmanship; this is especially true with weapons and farm tools, some of which are rarely seen elsewhere, such as the ploughshares, daggers, odd-shaped swords, hand axes, single-wing arrowheads, boot-shaped tools, knives and perforated sharpeners. However, a number of wine vessels popular in Central China at the time are absent

Double-Faced Mask of a Celestial Being — A Religious Object

In the shape of an inverted isosceles trapezium, this mask with two convex surfaces features the head of a creature with broad nose, large ears, protruding cheeks, gaping jaw, and oblong shovel-like teeth hemmed in between outstretching canine teeth. A round hole is fixed in the centre of the head which sports a pair of sheep with spiral horns. Cloud patterns are cut in intaglio in the upper part. A handle is fixed under the jaw. The entire work stands 53 centimetres high and 14.5-22 centimetres wide and weighs 4.1 kilogrammes.



Four Goats Jar With Wide Shoulders and Narrowing Feet

This is a large wine container with high neck and near-round body standing on tall, round feet. On the shoulders, four goat head sculptures are wrought at an even distance and in between animal face masks composed of tiny cloud patterns. The cloud and thunder patterns on the belly is interspaced with four animal face mask patterns in bas-relief, which strikes a balance with the designs on the shoulders. The upper parts of the round feet are ornamented with two rounds of raised linear pattern which is punctured by four cross-shaped holes. Wine containers like this were popular in central China, but one of such a large size is a rarity.



Oblate Tripod with Tiger's Legs

With tilted rim and a shallow, round bottom, this oblate tripod has two ears decorated with the likeness of a tiger. Standing on three legs, it takes a modified tiger design. Its wall is ornamented with three animal face masks, and the upper and lower edges are decorated with looping patterns. Height: 62.4 centimetres; diameter: 39.3 centimetres; weight: 28.5 kilogrammes.



Turtle Pattern Ornamental Object

This oval ornament has an uneven bottom. On its top side is inscribed a turtle pattern. Height: 4.7 centimetres; length: 7.3 centimetres; width: 6.3 centimetres.





Double-Tailed Tiger with a Bird Riding on Its Back

With a fang protruding from either corner of a gaping mouth, the tiger has bulging eyes under thick brows and upright ears. The neck is thick and the belly drooping; and both tails have upturned tips. The bird riding on the tiger's back sports a sharp beak, round eyes, upright neck and short tail. The tiger is ornamented all over with patterns — scale patterns on the spine, tails, feet and nose, rolling cloud patterns on the face and belly, and cloud and thunder patterns on the back. The sculpture stands 25.5 centimetres tall and 53.5 centimetres long and weighs 6.2 kilogrammes. Looking ferocious with glaring eyes, the tiger is cast in a reclining position on the verge of leaping into action. In a vivid and lifelike way the sculpture captures people's fear and respect for the animal.



Square Jade Carving with a Hole in the Middle

This ivory-coloured ritual ornament is wrought in two links, with the four corners carved into symmetrical arcs which are decorated with the pattern of a pair of cicadas linked to each other by their tails. The surface was polished. Height: 7 centimetres; diameter: 6.3 centimetres; thickness: 0.8-1 centimetre.

from the collection, including goblets with a broad lip, long stem and flared base, tripod vessels with handle and open spout, round tripod vessels with handle and capped columns, and flare-lipped goblets with swelling body and ring-foot. In addition, the image of tiger and a peculiar swallow-tail pattern appear on the surface of many ornaments were found at the Dayangzhou site. Both these facts show that most of these bronze items were indigenously made.

The cultural tradition behind this Shang tomb cannot be simply interpreted as a transplantation of Central China Shang culture across the Yangtse River. Rather, it was an integral part of southern China bronze culture and was therefore deeply rooted in the local cultural heritage. The discovery of this tomb has added dimension and substance to the study of southern China bronze culture; it shows once again that as long as 3,000 years ago, a native bronze culture was growing in the Ganjiang River valley hand in hand with Shang-dynasty civilization in Central China and that a slave-owning political power co-existed with the imperial court of the Shang Dynasty in Central China. Judging from the sheer size of the tomb and quantity and quality of the sacrificial objects unearthed from it, it is likely that the occupant of this tomb was, in his lifetime, the monarch of a southern Chinese serfdom or a member of the imperial family.

Translated by Ling Yuan



Bell with a Plane Opening and Circular Knob on Top

A hanging percussion instrument wrought in the shape of a vertical trapezium with an oval cross section. With a 4.5-centimetre long knob on top, the bell's surface is ornamented with three layers of floral patterns—cloud patterns on the lower part, buffalo head design cut in relief in the middle, and four lines of Kui-dragon patterns cut in bas-relief on the upper part and on both sides of the buffalo heads. Thunder pattern lines are wrought in intaglio above the buffalo head and Kui-dragon patterns. The rims are decorated with swallow-tail patterns, and eight halberd shaped ridges are cast on both sides of the bell, which stands 33 centimetres in height, with its corners kept 26.4 centimetres apart.



Single Wing Bronze Arrowheads

These arrowheads feature a triangle tip with a lozenge cross-section. A wing is fixed on one side. The handle is flat and fixed with two symmetrical knobs. Total length: 8.3 centimetres; the length of the handles: 5 centimetres.

Helmet

In the shape of a cap, this helmet features an oblong opening in the lower frontal face, with a vertical rib protruding down the centre. The two sides and the back of the helmet are longer than the frontal part. Animal face patterns are wrought in bas-relief in the frontal surface. Plumes of feather could be fixed in the hole on the top of the helmet, which looks shiny and smooth. Height: 18.7 centimetres; diameter: 18.6-21 centimetres.



Raw Wood Art

— Handicrafts Made from Wooden Material

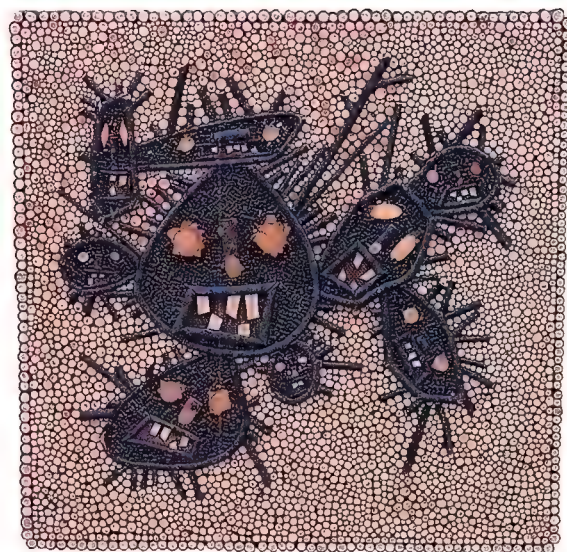
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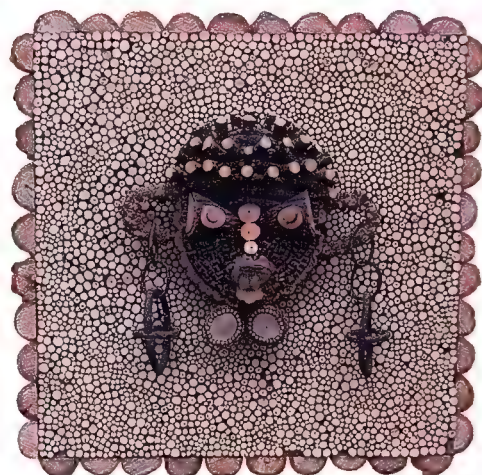
*The exaggerated and bizarre head
of the figure suggests a strong
flavour of tribal totem art.*



On the wave-shaped base, the artist conveys an unsophisticated mind through the three-dimensional eyes and the big toothy mouth.



The complicated and changeable feeling of the human figure portrayed with a mess of lines



The simple and honest figure: rendered with a combination of grotesque materials and a touch of realism

In addition to the reputed Huangguoshu Waterfalls, Mount Fanjing and other beautiful scenic areas, Guizhou Province in southwestern China boasts a great variety of unique works of art. One of the art forms, raw wood arts created by Chen Baiqiu, an art department teacher of Guizhou Teachers University, and Lu Yuanming, a school art teacher, arouses great visitor interest.

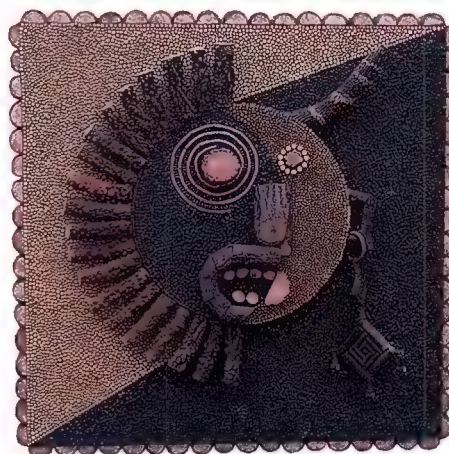
Locally born and bred, Chen Baiqiu and Lu Yuanming have similar tastes and interests. All year round the two artists, scaling mountains and fording streams in the Shiwandashan Mountains, gather material for their work while drawing artistic accomplishment from the folk art of the local ethnic peoples. After more than a decade's exploration and pursuit, they have finally created a novel form of art — raw wood art.

They first cut and process the raw material they have gathered from the mountains, such as plants, fruits and nuts, and then cut

them into useful material in the shapes of small pellets, wires, slices and fragments. Applying the techniques of inlaying, tenoning, welding and pasting they form the main structure of the work and then fix it to a special base with screws and bolts.

The works of Chen and Lu exploits the natural colour, texture and growth rings of wood, and are created without applying any colour. Every piece of their work is novel and unique. Deliberately exaggerated or even deformed, they express the image and postures of the human figure. The artists impress the viewer with the combination and contrast of the original colours of the materials used. Plain, bold and unconstrained in style, their works yield a strong artistic appeal. This new art form has successfully produced exhibits for Chinese and foreign museums as well as in private collections.

Translated by K.V. Ku

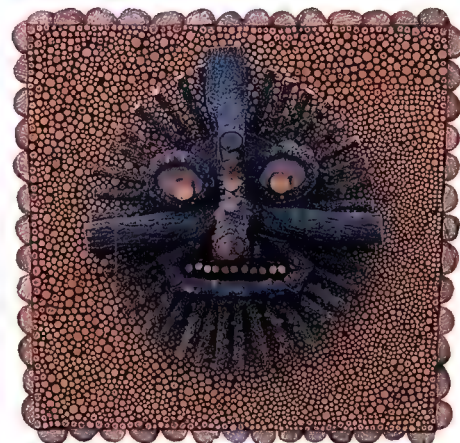


The geometrical and deformed patterns reminiscent of Picasso

Howling with rage



With this human head, through the simple composition, the artist symbolizes the double nature of the human race — regarding themselves the centre of the universe and yet feeling apprehensive of the unknown world.



The Discovery of Dinosaur Egg Fossils in Henan Province

PHOTOS & TEXT BY YU DESHUI



A dinosaur egg fossil unearthed in the Xixia Basin of Henan Province

Dinosaur fossils, a rarity, have been continuously discovered since May 1993 on the southern slope of Funiu Mountains in Xixia Basin, southwestern Henan Province.

The dinosaur egg fossils were initially discovered by local farmers who were digging ditches to plant Chinese alpine rushes. Then, almost overnight the remote Xixia County became a focus for archaeologists. After on-the-spot investigations, seven dinosaur egg fossils were confirmed. Fossils of dinosaur skeletons were also discovered in some other earth layers belonging to the Cretaceous period 137-67 million years ago.

Xixia County is located 280 kilometres away from Zhengzhou, the provincial capital of Henan. Traces of dinosaur activities can be found over an extensive area of 80 square kilometres including Danshui and Yangcheng of Xixia County. The fossils were distributed in the shape of nests. Each nest contained over a dozen to 30 dinosaur eggs laid in good order. More than 4,000 dinosaur egg fossils have been unearthed so far. It is estimated no less than 100,000 dinosaur egg fossils were buried underground. Such a rich store is rarely seen in the world. The smaller dinosaur egg fossils are not bigger than eggs with a diameter of four to six centimetres. Most of them are oblate; some look like olives as long as 60 centimetres. The fossils were well-preserved without any marks of harassment and damage. Only a small number of fossils were dented on their surface caused by the pressure of rock layers. Most of the fossils were intact. Besides black fossils there are red, blue, grey, brown and yellow fossils.

Academic research has proven that the Xixia Basin is so far the earliest burial place of dinosaur egg

fossils discovered in China. Its geologic era belongs to the early Cretaceous period of the Mesozoic Era about 100 million years ago. Field observations show that the inclination of the layer of rocks where the fossils were buried are at 50 degrees. It was probably affected by the new orogenic (mountain-building) movement. According to estimations, it rose simultaneously with the Himalayas of China and the Alps of Europe. This provides rarely obtained materials for the study of the new orogenic movement.

It is agreed that China has the richest store of dinosaur egg fossils. To date they have been found in 14 provinces. Those unearthed in Laiyang of Shandong Province and the Nanxiong Basin of Guangdong Province have had the greatest international impacts. Departments concerned have properly preserved the excavation sites of dinosaur egg fossils in the Xixia Basin. They have also mapped out an overall plan for the study and development of these places. According to the plan, excavations will be carried out on those of comparatively high academic value so as to open a cross-section of the continental deposit of the Cretaceous period which is unique in the world. The place will also become an open base for both scientific research and tourism.

Translated by Anne Yan



The topographical features of the Shangtian Village of Danshui Town, one of the locations of dinosaur egg fossils



The dinosaur egg fossils found in the sandstone layer



The field of Xixia excavations (by Wang Song)



Farmer Xiong before his Live Tombs

"Live Tombs"


— The Fruit of a Decade's Effort

PHOTOS BY CHEN RUOYING • TEXT BY LIU XIURUAN

A visit to some remote places in China often unmasks something intriguing. One such example are the twin graves known as "Live Tombs" I found unexpectedly by the Wuyang River Natural Scenic Area, during my tour to the county seat of Zhenyuan in Guizhou Province.

The Live Tombs were built by a farmer named Xiong Chushan for his wife and himself before his death. What's unique is that the facade of the tombs, the tombstone and the mountain slope at the back of the tombs are inlaid with fragments of bright coloured porcelain bowls and dishes in unusual patterns. The images of the old couple are erected in front of the tombs and the two Chinese characters meaning "Live Tombs" are eye-catching. On the tombstone are inscriptions, elegiac couplets, decorated patterns and the names of the tomb's occupants. A large godly tortoise with a curly tail on one side of the tombs appears to be crawling slowly.

Xiong Chushan even had portraits of three of his old friends sculpted near his own statue. The patterns on the mountain slope include the scene of the Tang-dynasty monk Xuan Zhuang and his disciples pilgrimaging to the West; the images of tiger, leopard, dragon, phoenix; flowers, birds, insects and fish as well as Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy, and frightening spirits.

I was told that Xiong's wife passed away before him. At first he went to visit his wife's grave every day and it was then he struck on the tomb idea. He rebuilt his wife's tomb into a twin, reserving a chamber for himself. Then he went everywhere to collect porcelain fragments and pieced them together on the sculptures and patterns he created. He worked for 10 years and finally finished this peculiar group of tomb art. He died peacefully at the age of 84 and lay at ease in the grave chamber he had prepared for himself, because he knew very well he would never be lonesome after his death. 

Translated by K.V. Ku

The facade of the tombs, inscriptions on the tombstone, patterns and figure sculptures are inlaid with fragments of porcelain bowls and dishes.

Right of the godly tortoise is Xiong's self-portrait; above left the moulded figures of three old friends.



Grotesque portraits on the mountain slope



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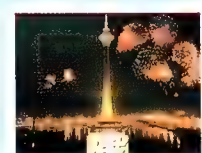


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N E X T
I S S U E



A Va nationality girl tea-picker on Mount Wuliang

Tea market at Chengdu, capital of Sichuan



Today's caravan via Hutiao (Tiger Jumping) Gorge, along the Jinsha River

Border Tea and the Tea Caravan Route

Next issue is our 15th anniversary special. To celebrate, we will devote coverage exclusively on the history of China's Border Tea and the Tea Caravan Route which consists of West Route Tea, South Route Tea, Yunnan tea which is carried from Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province to Qamdo in Tibet, and Sichuan tea from Ya'an in Sichuan Province to Tibet. Along this historical route, we encounter not only diverse landscapes, Buddhist murals and cliff carvings, the tea-drinking culture of various ethnic nationalities, but also discover the pioneer-like hardships and feat of transporting the tea by horses which can be verified by the two-inch-deep horse's hoof prints on stone planks, and from interviews with veteran tea caravan merchants and horse drivers.

Return to the Holy Mountains of the Outlaws

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY MICHAEL WOODHEAD



Wachang Village near Muli Monastery

The area around Dali and Lijiang in Southwest China is one of the most spectacular spots in China, particularly with independent travellers. And it is not hard to see why: stunning mountain scenery, a host of ethnic minority hill tribes, and a laid-back atmosphere that is hard to find anywhere else in China. The towns are easily reached by bus from Kunming and in the high season, the streets of Dali flock with young Western travellers attracted by the "new Kathmandu" label given to the town by the guidebooks. Lijiang has also sprung to fame with its own fly-on-the-wall TV series *Beyond the Clouds*.

Yet only a hundred miles to the north lies one of the great undiscovered regions of China: the old lama kingdom of Muli which before 1956 was ruled by a lama headman and bandits. Set in a sweeping valley of the Litang River this is a region of pine forests, alpine meadows and blue-grey limestone mountains. At Muli, a white-painted monastery nestles under blue skies and a mixed population of Tibetans and other minorities live a subsistence lifestyle that has barely changed over the centuries: tending goats, nurturing terraces of barely, panning for gold, and felling the mighty pine trees.

Until recently, this mountain bound region was off the limits to foreigners and had only ever seen one Western visitor: the American explorer, Joseph Rock back in the 1920s. But with the opening up of China, travel restrictions have been relaxed and Muli now awaits the first trickle of curious and adventurous travellers.

Access to Muli is not easy: it is served only by a precarious logging road up the Litang Valley with a once weekly bus service. But this should not deter the motivated explorer. There is a more pleasant and rewarding means of reaching Muli

in southern Sichuan by trekking the 80 kilometres over the mountains from Lugu Lake, north of Lijiang in Yunnan Province.

In spring 1994, working from old hand drawn maps taken from Joseph Rock's *National Geographic* articles of 1928, I trekked over the mountains to Muli in three days. What I found there was more than enough to justify my efforts: the monastery is still standing, although not on the scale of the old palace, but nonetheless spectacularly seated underneath the crenellated crags of 16,000 feet Mt Mitzuga, with an eagle's view of the whole river valley.

Muli Monastery underneath Mt Mitzuga



The Trek

My trek to Muli started at Lugu Lake, an isolated but popular scenic spot two day's drive over Liang Shan (Cool Mountains) from Lijiang. It is a delightful place with the clear blue lake surrounded by low hills and pine forests.

The local Mosuo tribe people here retain a matriarchal society where women rule the roost. Mosuo mothers are the head of the household and fathers are relegated to the status of "uncle" to live away from the family home only paying occasional visits to their spouse and children.

I stayed with a Mosuo family in one of the finely crafted wooden mansions that line the lakeside, sharing their meals in the sooty confines of a draughty cabin. Before leaving, I took a trip in a dugout canoe to visit a Buddhist temple on the lake's islands.

For the next three days I hiked through pine forests, alpine meadows and over a 15,000 foot high mountain pass to reach Muli. On the way, I walked over forested hills and passed through isolated Yi villages of log cabins that had not changed since Rock passed through 60 years ago.

There were no cars, electricity or machines: everything was done by hand. It was so isolated that many local people speak only the Yi dialect.

Near the settlement of Wujiao was a tiny one-monk lamasery called Renjom Gumpa. It was a small white building on the top of a grassy hillock with a beautiful backdrop of mountains and forests. To reach it I had to walk through a narrow but spectacular gorge where huge slivers of rock balance precariously overhead. At the lamasery the burly Tibetan monk invited me into his dim scullery to share a bowl of muddy butter tea and tsampa. Afterwards, he showed me around the faded red frescoes of his lonely temple. Few other travellers had passed this way.

My third day was a severe test of endurance: 12 hours through an enormous pine-filled canyon until I passed just below the summit crags of 15,000 foot high Mt Ledze. As I crossed the pass the scenery changed from pine to larch and oak forests: I had entered the realms of Muli.

By early evening, I reached the first settlements: a forestry station and later the cheerful colours of Tibetan chalets. At last, after rounding a spur at the bottom of the valley, I came across the sight I had been waiting so long to see. High above on the hillside there was a walled village of white buildings, and in the background the distinctive peaks of Mt Mitzuga.

It was only later after stumbling up the hill and entering the village by a door in the wall, that I discovered this was not Muli Monastery but Wachang Village. The monastery itself was another hour's walk away, on the other side of the valley. Wachang Village was actually little more than a few buildings perched just below the valley ridge. There were no cars or roads, just a dirt track for a main street lined with snooker tables and a few stalls.

When I arrived, it seemed like the whole village had come out to see me. I was feted like a returned hero because they had not seen many foreigners in Muli. I was taken into a cabin which housed the village restaurant, and plied with delicious boiled ham, peas and bread while my feet were soaked in a bowl of hot water. The local doctor and English teacher came to practise their conversation skills on me, and children queued up at the window to catch a glimpse of the foreigner.

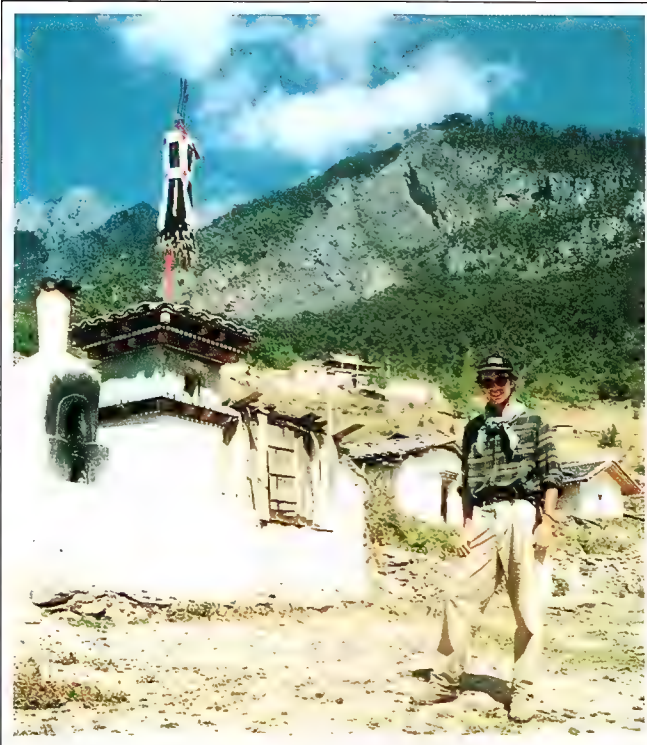
That night I settled into the relative luxury of the Post Office guest-house, and despite the bedbugs I sank into an exhausted sleep, barely able to believe that I had at last reached my destination.

Muli Today

The next morning, I was led by the local English teacher to see the remains of the once mighty Muli Monastery. We crossed a spur and looked out over the grand valley Litang River which was overshadowed by dark hills and limestone crags. The soil was an arid pink dust and the sun shone in an almost cloudless sky. We passed a small white building straggling a stream which contained a water-powered prayer wheel for sending millions of prayers heavenward.

Around the next corner was the imposing facade of Muli Monastery: a large white prayer hall with a yellow roof, sat in isolation amid the brown stumps of old temple buildings. The old walled complex was no more and only a few minor buildings and a smaller temple remained further up the hillside. Yet it was a beautiful place. Bathed in the spring sunshine, the white buildings had an unearthly air as they dominated the valley and the mountains beyond.

I was welcomed at the monastery entrance by the head lama



The author in front of a shrine

dressed in his maroon toga and was shown round the temple by one of the 50 young Tibetan novice monks. Within the main courtyard were teenage lamas crouched in front of sacred texts chanting and bowing their heads. When they saw me they went quiet, stared and then smiled.

Inside the chanting hall were rows of fierce and weird looking statues depicting the mountain spirits: some rode ferocious green and white lions and were armed with bows and arrows. Others had several pairs of arms and legs, or wore crowns made of skulls. All the statues were robed in deep hue of blue, orange, green and pink.

Later, I climbed up the hill beyond the monastery to a vantage point where Rock had taken one of his pictures of Muli. The contrast was startling. Now the walls were gone and the once tight cluster of buildings was reduced to a few tooth-like stumps. A pair of swifts reeled over my head and it felt like the ghosts of old Muli were still around.

I returned to Wachang Village and spent two days exploring the surrounds of the monastery, enjoying the hospitality of the villagers. I gave a talk to the massed pupils of Muli Middle School and afterwards the young Tibetan pupils invited me to their classroom to watch them practising their disco dancing. Muli had changed a lot in 70 years I realized, and the lama kingdom I had come looking for was no longer there.

Homeward Bound

I returned to civilization by hitching on a logging truck to Bowa-Muli, a hill town 60 kilometres south. From Bowa the route to Lijiang followed a very precarious mountain route (not for the faint-hearted), via the towns of Yanyuan and Ninglang.

Muli remains one of the most secluded parts of China but modernization is coming quickly. Muli still has a lot to offer the adventurous traveller with a scope for hiking and climbing around the peaks of Mt Mitzuga. Further afield, the cluster of 20,000 foot peaks at Konkaling (now called Gongling) remain to be explored and are still unclimbed. Whether or not the bandits of Konkaling still remain is for the next traveller to discover!



The author tucks into a well-earned meal at Wachang's only restaurant





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564 rooms and suites
Located 14 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, business centre, conference room, karaoke, disco, ballroom, swimming pool, billiard room, tennis courts, beauty salon, shopping arcade, massage, sauna, babysitting service, bicycle rental

Friendship Hotel Hangzhou

杭州友好飯店
53 Pinghai Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006
Tel: (0571) 777888 Telex: 35068 FRISH CN
Fax: (0571) 773842
Opened 6 October 1986
224 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 14 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, disco, art gallery, beauty salon, massage, multi-function room, shopping arcade, karaoke, bar

Hangzhou International Mansion

杭州國際大廈
157 Tiayuchang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006
Tel: 556224, 555724 Telex: 35029 BZIB CN
Fax: 574201
296 rooms and suites
Located 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, exhibition hall, bar, coffee shop, ballroom, karaoke, shopping arcade, gym, clinic, beauty salon, facilities for handicapped persons

Hangzhou Overseas Chinese Hotel

杭州華僑飯店
15 Hubin Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006
Tel: (0571) 774401 or 774953 Telex: 35070 HOCH CN
Fax: (0571) 774978
308 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 13 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, ballroom, karaoke, clinic, gym, massage, beauty salon, babysitting service, facilities for handicapped persons


Hangzhou Tower

杭州大廈
1 Wulin Square, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006
Tel: 553911 Telex: 351008 HZB CN
Fax: 570062
139 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, shopping centre, exhibition centre, business centre, billiard room, karaoke, gym, dance hall, clinic, beauty salon, massage

Hangzhou Xihu State Hotel

杭州西湖國賓館
7 Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007
Tel: 776889 Telex: 35004 BTHXH CN
Fax: 772348
113 rooms and suites
Located 7 km from the city centre, 20 km from airport, 9 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, bar, coffee shop, disco, shopping arcade, beauty salon, cinema, massage

Hangzhou Zhijiang Hotel

杭州之江飯店


14 Moganshan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310005
Tel: 866888, 882924 Fax: 864966
Opened 28 November 1990
100 rooms and 20 suites
Located 20 km from airport, 12 km from railway station
Facilities: Banquet halls, restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, dance hall, billiard room, function rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, bar, gym, clinic, beauty salon

Huagang Hotel

花港飯店
1 Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007
Tel: 771324 Telex: 35007 HUAJG CN
Fax: 772481
Opened 1958
118 rooms and suites
Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, karaoke, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon, ballroom, gym, massage

Huajiashan Hotel

花家山賓館
12 Faxiang Lane, Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007
Tel: 771224 Telex: 35063 HJSGN CN
Fax: 773980
Opened 18 October 1981
196 rooms and suites
Located southwest of West Lake, 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Shopping arcade, beauty salon, massage, conference room, health club, karaoke, multi-function hall

Shangri-La Hotel, Hangzhou

杭州香格里拉飯店



78 Beishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007
Tel: 777951 Telex: 35005/6 HOTCH CN
Fax: 773545
387 rooms
Located 40 minutes from airport
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, meeting and banquet rooms, business centre, beauty salon, shopping arcade, ballroom, function rooms

Wang Hu Hotel

望湖賓館
2 Huancheng Road West, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006
Tel: 771024, 771942 Telex: 351029 WHBG CN
Fax: (0571) 773027
Opened 17 March 1986
369 rooms and suites
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, karaoke, billiard room, dance hall, nightclub

Xin Qiao Hotel, Hangzhou

杭州新橋飯店
176 Jiefang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310001
Tel: 776688 Telex: 351028 XQH CN
Fax: 722768
Opened 28 March 1986
342 rooms and 14 suites
Located 12 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon, multi-function hall, billiard room, ballroom, coffee shop, bar, massage, babysitting service, facilities for handicapped persons

Ningbo, Zhejiang

Asia Garden Hotel

亞洲華園賓館
Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010
Tel: 7366888 Telex: 37020 AGHZJ CN
Fax: 7361238/7366554
Opened 18 July 1987
190 rooms and suites
Located 15 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, conference rooms, business centre, disco, coffee shop, health club, shopping arcade, multi-function hall, karaoke, beauty salon, bar

Ningbo Hotel

寧波飯店
65 Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010
Tel: 0574-7366334 Telex: 37019 NBHOT CN
Fax: 0574-366301

Opened 26 May 1983

116 rooms and suites

Located 12 km from airport, 550 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference room, business centre, multi-function hall, bar, beauty salon, ballroom, karaoke, massage, disco, shopping arcade

Golden Dragon Hotel

寧波金龍飯店



Nanzhan (Southern Railway Station) Square, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010
Tel: (0574) 318888 (Switchboard)
Fax: (0574) 312288
Opened 24 October 1991
304 rooms and suites
Located 12 km from airport, 100 m from railway station
Facilities: 14 large and small restaurants, revolving restaurant, meeting rooms, bar, multi-function hall, ballroom, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, coffee shop, karaoke, swimming pool

Ningbo Hua Qiao Hotel

寧波華僑飯店



130 Liuting Street, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010
Tel: 0574-7363175 Telex: 37001 NPHCM CN
Fax: 0574-364790

130 rooms

Located in the city centre near Moon Lake and Tianyige Pavilion

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, meeting rooms, business centre, disco, bar, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Yonggang Hotel

甬港飯店

105 Baizhang Road East, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315040
Tel: 7334621 Fax: (0574)-333626

Opened 1982

184 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 5.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke, bar, billiard room, beauty salon, massage, clinic, coffee shop

Flights to and from Tianjin

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Tianjin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	21:50	22:15	X2 366
Tianjin — Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:00	07:25	X2 365
Fuzhou — Tianjin	4 7	11:35	13:55	CA1526
Tianjin — Fuzhou	4 7	08:20	10:35	CA1525
Guangzhou — Tianjin	2 6	11:10	13:40	CZ3127
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:55	14:30	CA1318
	1 5	16:15	18:55	X2 202
Tianjin — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:15	10:55	CA 1317
	1 5	08:40	11:20	X2 201
	2 6	14:35	17:15	CZ3128
Hong Kong — Tianjin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:45	16:35	CA104
Tianjin — Hong Kong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:35	12:40	CA103
Nanjing — Tianjin	2 6	19:50	21:15	CA1532
Tianjin — Nanjing	2 6	17:35	19:00	CA1531
Shanghai — Tianjin	3 7	12:55	14:35	X2 206
	1	16:25	18:10	X2 212
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:00	19:30	CA1524
	4 6	18:55	20:30	X2 208
Tianjin — Shanghai	4 6	08:20	09:50	X2 207
	1	08:20	09:50	X2 211
	3 7	10:30	12:00	X2 205
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:30	17:00	CA1523
Shenzhen — Tianjin	2 6	17:30	20:15	CA1320
	3 7	19:00	21:40	X2 204
	4 5	19:15	21:50	CA1340
Tianjin — Shenzhen	2 6	13:50	16:30	CA1319
	3 7	15:25	18:05	X2 203
	4 5	15:35	18:15	CA1339

Flights to and from Ningbo

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Ningbo	1 3 4 6 7	10:35	12:45	CA1541
	4 7	15:05	17:05	SZ4524
	2 5	16:20	18:20	CA1543
Ningbo — Beijing	4 7	12:10	14:10	SZ4523
	1 3 4 6 7	13:35	15:35	CA1542
	2 5	19:10	21:05	CA1544
Fuzhou — Ningbo	3 7	08:10	09:30	FJ 511
	1 3 6	10:00	11:00	MU5594
Ningbo — Fuzhou	3 7	10:05	11:25	FJ 512
	1 3 6	15:30	16:45	MU5593
Guangzhou — Ningbo	2 4 6 7	07:55	09:35	CZ3517
	1	10:20	11:45	SZ4563
		10:20	11:50	G8 535
	1 3	10:45	12:55	MU5376
	7	11:25	13:10	CJ6781
Ningbo — Guangzhou	2 4 6 7	10:35	12:35	GZ3518
	7	12:50	14:30	G8 536
	1 3	13:45	15:40	MU5375
		14:10	15:40	CJ6782
	1	17:00	18:35	SZ4564
Hong Kong — Ningbo	2 3 4 6 7	11:10	13:20	MU 512
Ningbo — Hong Kong	2 3 4 6 7	08:10	10:10	MU 511
Nanjing — Ningbo	1 4	08:30	09:40	3W 539
Ningbo — Nanjing	1 4	10:20	11:30	3W 540
Shanghai — Ningbo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:00	07:30	MU5503
	2 5	15:35	15:55	MU5501
Ningbo — Shanghai	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:15	14:45	MU5504
	2 5	16:35	16:55	MU5502
Shenzhen — Ningbo	2 6	09:00	10:40	CZ3551
	1 5	11:10	13:20	MU5312
	4 7	15:40	17:20	CJ6312
	1 3	17:15	18:55	CJ6336
Ningbo — Shenzhen	1 5	08:10	10:10	MU5311
	2 6	11:40	13:20	CZ3552
	4 7	12:55	14:45	CJ6311
	1 3	14:20	16:15	CJ6335

Flights to and from Nanchang

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Nanchang	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:30	09:20	CA1511
	1	09:35	11:40	GP7151
	1 3 4 7	10:45	12:45	MU5150
	2 6	13:50	16:10	H4 172
	5 6	13:55	15:50	MU5150
Nanchang — Beijing	2	19:00	21:00	MU5150
	1 3 4 7	07:50	09:50	MU5149
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:10	11:55	CA1512
	2 6	10:40	13:00	H4 171
	5 6	11:10	13:00	MU5149
Fuzhou — Nanchang	1 3 6	17:40	18:50	MU5548
	1 3 6	08:00	09:10	MU5547
Guangzhou — Nanchang	1 2 4 6 7	15:55	16:55	CZ3535
	3 6	16:35	17:45	MU5362
	1 4	20:40	21:45	MU5362
	2 5	21:00	22:00	MU5362
Nanchang — Guangzhou	3 6	14:25	15:40	MU5361
	1 2 4 6 7	17:55	18:55	CZ3536
	1 4	18:40	19:45	MU5361
	2 5	19:00	20:10	MU5361
Nanjing — Nanchang	1 3 5	08:10	09:45	3W 543
Nanchang — Nanjing	1 3 5	14:05	15:40	3W 544
Shanghai — Nanchang	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:50	17:00	MU5505
Nanchang — Shanghai	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:45	08:45	MU5506
Shenzhen — Nanchang	4 7	08:25	09:25	CZ3563
	1	12:10	13:25	GP7357
	3 6	19:20	20:20	4G 887
	1 3 5 6	20:25	21:40	MU5354
Nanchang — Shenzhen	4 7	10:25	11:25	CZ3564
	1	14:25	15:45	GP7358
	1 3 5 6	18:00	19:20	MU5353
	3 6	21:10	22:10	4G888

Train Schedules Nanjing West – Huangshan – Yingtian

685 Mixed	491 O.	389 F.T.	358/359 F.T.	321 F.T.	308/309 F.T.	Train No. Station	310 F.T.	322 F.T.	360/357 F.T.	390 F.T.	492 O.	686 Mixed
			From Shanghai	From Hefei	From Changzhou		To Changzhou	To Hefei	To Shanghai			
	05:30	11:20	—	20:30	—	Nanjing West	15:37	18:48	—	08:30	22:58	
	05:47	11:40	23:08	20:51	12:51	Nanjing	15:27	18:37	05:29	07:53	22:48	
	07:24	13:11	00:39	22:23	14:38	Ma'anshan	12:50	16:27	03:24	04:56	19:55	
	08:43	14:18	01:44	23:35	15:49	Wuhu	12:28	15:14	02:15	04:48	19:40	
	10:26	15:27	02:53	01:05	17:06	Xuanzhou	11:05	13:45	00:36	03:32	17:40	
	11:43	16:18	03:54	01:55	18:01	Ningguo	10:08	12:54	23:45	04:41	16:22	
07:00	14:16	18:03	05:36	03:42	20:12	Jixi	08:25	11:17	22:08	00:57	14:14	21:48
07:48	14:58	18:37	06:09	04:15	20:53	Shexian	07:46	10:32	21:23	00:12	13:20	20:57
08:30	15:31	19:08	06:45	04:46	21:10	Huangshan	07:15	10:04	20:50	23:45	12:48	20:18
10:29	17:33	21:08	08:23	06:02		Qimen		08:27	19:21	22:24	10:57	18:21
13:43	21:30	23:38	11:30	08:40		Jingdezhen		06:16	17:10	20:26	07:25	15:04
		03:07	15:00	12:20		Yingtian		02:58	13:10	16:40		
		05:50				Nanchang				13:42		
				To Xiamen				To Xiamen				

F.T. — Fast through passenger train O. — Ordinary passenger train

Train Schedules Beijing – Tianjin – Tangshan – Guye – Qinhuangdao

327 O.	319 O.	317 O.	313 O.	311 O.	309 O.	303/302 O.	Train No. Station	304/301 O.	310 O.	312 O.	314 O.	318 O.	320 O.	328 O.
14:17					06:50	From Shijiazhuang	Beijing South	To Shijiazhuang	20:30					12:08
—	10:50		17:32	09:13	—	13:08	Beijing	14:55	—	08:28	16:35		20:13	—
14:32	11:13		17:53	09:34	07:05	13:31	Fengtai	14:05	20:18	08:10	16:17		19:56	11:56
15:39	12:02		18:42	10:23	07:54	14:20	Langfang	13:18	19:31	07:22	15:30		19:04	11:09
—	—		19:14	10:56	08:27	—	Yangcun	12:49	19:03	06:53	15:03		—	10:40
16:35	12:55		19:42	11:24	08:58	15:13	Tianjin North	12:24	18:38	06:27	14:37		18:13	10:17
16:55	13:15	08:20	19:50	11:32	09:18	15:33	Tianjin	12:10	18:27	06:15	14:26	17:40	18:02	09:02
17:30	—	09:11			09:53	16:08	Tanggu	11:21	17:38			—	—	09:13
18:55	15:00	10:36			11:17	17:34	Tangshan	10:02	—			16:07	15:50	07:44
19:21		11:04			11:45	18:03	Guye	09:33	16:03			15:38		07:15
		11:35			12:15	18:41	Luanxian	08:53	—			15:06		06:40
		12:07			12:46	19:13	Changli	08:20	15:03			14:33		06:00
		12:36			13:14	19:40	Beidaihe	07:55	14:41			14:08		05:35
		12:58			13:37	20:02	Qinhuangdao	07:30	14:17			13:42		05:10

Train Schedules Shanghai – Hangzhou – Ningbo

369 O.	367 O.	365 O.	363 O.	361 O.	353 O.	351 O.	Train No. Station	352 O.	354 O.	362 O.	364 O.	366 O.	368 O.	370 O.
			13:23	02:55		08:09	Shanghai	22:33		10:59	21:53			
			—	—	21:10	—	Shanghai West	—	17:01	—	—			
			15:34	05:34	23:16	10:25	Jiaxing	20:28	14:55	08:56	19:50			
			16:06	06:06	—	10:57	Haining	—	14:18	08:09	19:15		16:41	
17:40	08:30	07:04	17:20	07:21	00:41	12:21	Hangzhou	19:04	12:50	06:38	17:40	11:40	15:56	21:31
18:16	09:08	07:46			01:20	12:59	Xiaoshan	18:12	11:55			10:59	15:06	20:45
19:10	10:03	08:28			02:07	13:42	Shaoxing	17:21	11:16			09:37	13:47	20:00
20:37	11:15	10:07			03:33	14:57	Yuyao	15:46	09:30			08:20	12:50	18:40
21:50	12:20	11:08			04:42	16:16	Ningbo	14:45	08:25			07:10		17:30

Average Climatic Conditions in Tianjin and Zhejiang

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Tianjin	Tianjin	Temperature (°C)	-4.0	-1.6	5.0	13.2	20.0	24.1	26.4	25.5	20.8	13.6	5.2	-1.6
		Rainfall (mm)	3.1	6.0	6.4	21.0	30.6	69.3	189.8	162.4	43.4	24.9	9.3	3.6
	Tanggu	Temperature (°C)	-3.9	-1.9	4.3	12.0	19.0	23.4	26.2	25.8	21.3	14.3	5.7	-1.5
		Rainfall (mm)	3.1	5.2	6.2	22.4	29.1	65.8	200.8	175.6	51.3	26.3	10.5	4.6
Zhejiang	Hangzhou	Temperature (°C)	3.8	5.1	9.3	15.4	20.2	24.3	28.6	28.0	23.3	17.7	12.1	6.3
		Rainfall (mm)	62.2	88.7	114.1	130.4	179.9	196.2	126.5	136.5	177.6	77.9	54.7	54.0
	Ningbo	Temperature (°C)	4.2	5.4	9.2	14.9	19.5	23.7	28.1	27.7	23.8	18.1	12.6	7.0
		Rainfall (mm)	58.8	79.1	97.9	116.5	153.4	190.8	129.3	142.9	207.6	84.7	59.9	53.9

TOURIST INFORMATION

Business with Pleasure: Mount Wutai

Sponsored by the provincial Administrative Office of Xinzhou Prefecture, the Sixth Mt Wutai International Tourism Month will be held July 25-August 25 at Taihuai Township, Mt Wutai in Shanxi Province. Main activities include Buddhist rites on the 14th and 15th day of the seventh lunar month at Pusading; the unveiling ceremony for a jade Buddha on August 19 at Zunsheng Temple; a Buddhist service with 1,000 monks praying for world peace and tourists' happiness on July 26 at Xiantong Temple; a three-day tour from Beijing to Mt Wutai; and a five-day tour from Beijing to Tuncun Hot Spring Holiday Village via Mt Wutai, Yan Xishan's former residence and Yuwang Temple. Moreover, there is also the annual economic trade symposium with more than 200 domestic and foreign business people expected. An excellent chance to combine business with pleasure and culture at this peripheral scenic area of Mt Wutai. For more information, contact Shi Xianmin on Tel: (0350) 333820, Fax: (0350) 339371.

Desert Island

Shanghai is to have its own national tourist resort now that the Sun Island Vacation Zone has been officially approved as a major scenic spot. Located on the upper reaches of the Huangpu River, Sun Island is being built on a deserted island, 157 hectares in size. Upon completion, the first class multi-functional tourist zone will be opened to tourists in May 1996.

Qing Temple Opens

The Yongfu Temple, an ancient architectural complex within the west imperial Mausoleum of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) in northern Hubei Province, opened to visitors last month. After six years of renovation, the temple which was built in 1789 now has 19 structures, including stone

bridges, a mountain gate, bell tower and an imperial hall.

Henan Province Travel Routes

Several tourist routes have been opened here. Considered as the root of the Chinese nation and of Chinese family names, Henan is teeming with folk arts and unique local customs. Among the routes are: Zhengzhou Cultural Tourism Festival, Luoyang Peony Fair, Sanmenxia International Yellow River Tourism Festival and the Kaifeng Ancient Capital Alley Visit. For martial arts fans there is the Wenxian County International Shadow Boxing Contest, Chenjiagou Villagers' Shadow Boxing Performance and the Shaolin Temple Martial Arts Festival. Another route takes you on the Loess Plateau Visit, and there is another which goes through the Longmen Grottoes.

Gardeners' World Under Threat

The Huanan Botanical Garden is being challenged by Guangzhou government who are planning to build a boulevard through the garden. Huanan boasts the most complete collection of tropical and subtropical plants in China. If the road cuts through the famous section for the rare lily magnolia, the precious plant collection would be destroyed. Orchids and some other precious plants would also suffer the same fate. Huanan Botanical Garden, with a history of 38 years and covering 300 hectares, is one of the major botanical gardens run by the Chinese Academic Sciences. Supported by the provincial environmental protection bureau, the 12-hectare lily magnolia garden boasts 120 different lily magnolias, and is one of the world's biggest bases for the lilies. Other famous and rare species include the 100 varieties of ginger and medicinal herbs.

Shaolin Gold Coins

To commemorate the 1,500th anniversary of the Shaolin Temple, a total of 150 coins weighing one ounce each and 1,500 coins at 0.1 ounce will be issued during September 3-9 when the temple holds a grand celebration to mark its birthday. The observance is composed of religious activities, academic exchanges, martial arts performances and cultural shows. The temple in Central China's Henan Province, is the original place of Shaolin martial arts which is famous at home and abroad.

AIRLINE UPDATES

Bangdag Airport in Changdu, Tibet Autonomous Region officially opened last month. At 4,334 metres above sea level, the airport is the highest in the world. Construction of the airport started in May 1993 and was completed in October 1994. The opening of Chengdu-Changdu flights will reduce travel time between the two cities, greatly improving communications and the investment environment in eastern Tibet.

A convenient and new air flight has opened between Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang and Huangshan, a tourist city in Anhui Province. There will be two flights weekly, according to Zhejiang Aviation Administration Corp.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Primitive Man

Yuanmou County in Yunnan Province, last month celebrated the 30th anniversary of the fossil findings of Yuanmou Man. The fossil findings of Yuanmou Man. The celebration featured an international academic symposium on palaeoanthropology. Scientific research has proved that Yuanmou Man lived 1.7 million years ago, and is believed to be the earliest primitive man in Asia.

Porcelain Kiln Site

China's largest ancient porcelain kiln site, containing a large number of rare porcelain, has been found in Fujian Province. The 136.50-metre-long site was one of the six found at the Jianyao Kiln Complex, famous for its black glazed porcelain cups in the Song Dynasty (907-1127). Excavations have shown that during the latter half of the first millennium AD, the complex produced valuable porcelain in different shapes and colours, including those for imperial use. Among the items unearthed from the kiln are a black glazed cup with hare's hair streaks, a black glazed bowl with a partridge feather mottling and another bowl with a fingerprint. Experts were also impressed with the Kilns which were made of stacked potsherds coated with mud. These are rarely seen in the southern part of China.

BUSINESS TIPS

The northern city of Changchun in Jilin Province has been reported by the State Council as a special zone of economic development. It has recently opened 32 enterprises in the area.

EVENTS...

American and Chinese Network

An exhibition will be held this September in California to allow for networking between American and Chinese enterprises. Sponsored by the American New Continental Inc (ANC), the exhibition will focus on foodstuffs, medical equipment, computers, electronics, household electrical appliances and light industrial products. So far, about 150 enterprises from Beijing, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Jinan, Harbin and Hohhot are involved. Some Hong Kong and Taiwan enterprises will also attend the display.

Eurasian Continental Bridge

An international trade fair focusing on economic cooperation with the areas along the China section of the "Eurasian continental bridge", a major transnational railway, is scheduled for September 12-16 at the port city of Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province. The fair is expected to attract participation from over 800 overseas representatives and over 1,000 Chinese traders from all 17 cities, provinces and autonomous regions along China's continental bridge section.

Shanxi Coal Auction

An international economic trade fair will take place from September 16-22 in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province's capital and China's leading coal producer. Local officials said that a number of money-losing small enterprises will be auctioned at the week-long fair. Some bigger state-owned enterprises will sell part of their property rights so as to get funds to upgrade production lines. More than 1,000 overseas businesses have been invited to take part in the fair.

Zhuhai Port Opens

Zhuhai Port in Guangdong Province has opened to foreign vessels with the creation of two new berths accommodating 20,000 deadweight-ton ships. The two new

berths, each with a building space of over 200,000 square metres, are designed for an annual handling capacity of 950,000 tons. Zhuhai Port provides services such as Customs inspection, commodities inspection and a food supply system for incoming and outgoing ships.

BANKING & FINANCE

Capital is Capital in Shanghai

Over 80 per cent of the foreign-funded enterprises in Shanghai are profitable, taking the lead among other municipalities and provinces. The Shanghai government, however, has revoked the business licences of more than 140 foreign-funded ventures since last year because their capital funds failed to arrive long after registration. Shanghai will make the availability of capital funds a precondition for foreign-funded enterprises. The management of joint ventures, especially supervision of the actual use of foreign funds, will be strengthened. Specific measures will be taken to encourage foreign investors to put their funds into use, but business licences will be withdrawn if the foreign-funded enterprise fails to receive their contracted capital funds one month after the deadline. Enterprises involving illegal or illicit business activities will be rectified, fined or ordered to shut down. A committee will help foreign-funded ventures to obtain funds from the Chinese side by seeking loans from banks and other financial institutions.

Beijing to Make Investment Easier

Beijing municipal government has issued new policies to encourage foreign companies to invest in the city's priority industries such as civil facilities construction, transportation, energy and environmental protection. Specifically, foreign companies are encouraged in the production of pollution-free, low energy consumption goods with high returns, and technology intensive goods with a high added value. These include motor vehicles, electronic products, new building materials and foodstuffs. Foreign companies are also welcomed to help upgrade China's manufacturing industries, process farm and sideline products and turn out goods for export, as well as to invest in Beijing's service sector: fast food, information, consultancy, the construction of major commercial facilities and scenic spots, and so on. The flexible policies

include tax reductions for foreign-funded manufacturers, enterprises in the Beijing New-Tech Industry Development Zone and enterprises engaged in agriculture, forestry and livestock breeding. Houses or apartments built by foreign companies can be sold, leased or transferred to overseas enterprises and individuals.

MARKETING

Barter Regulations

A new regulation has been published recently by China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation. The regulation states that all goods are open for free trade in principle, except grain, tungsten ore, crude oil and end oil products which still must be approved for export. As prescribed under the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-95), all barter goods and goods for economic and technical projects (productive or nonproductive) are open to free trade. No limitation shall be imposed on the countries from which these goods are imported. Import quotas no longer will be assigned to trading enterprises, but import approval procedures and applying for import licences will be necessary. All enterprises which are entitled to rights for barter trade can trade by themselves. Goods imported through barter trade must be produced in the originating countries and should not be goods transferred from other countries.

Beijing to Import US\$200m of Technology

Beijing is determined to revive its State sector signalling a boost for technology trading in the coming years. Imports of technology since 1979, will continue to further establish a comprehensive industrial system for the city and help to raise the international competitiveness of its industrial products, especially its technology exports to S.E. Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Last year, Beijing's 242 technology projects of US\$102 million in trade volume were exported to over 30 countries and regions which included Singapore, Japan, Russia, Romania and the U.S. A total of US\$200-250 million will be spent on technology imports this year. Industrial and infrastructure projects will split the money of which 50 per cent is expected to come from donations and loans. Last year, Beijing imported 300 technology projects with a trade volume of US\$252 million, mainly coming from Germany, the U.S., Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Britain and Hong Kong.

敦煌
Dunhuang
Cigarettes



Dunhuang Grottoes, built up from AD 386–1367 (the Northern Wei Dynasty – the Yuan Dynasty), are among the greatest existing treasure troves of Buddhist art in the world. Dunhuang Cigarettes, one of the famous brand manufactured by Shanghai Cigarette Factory (1925–1995), China.



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